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Issue No 133

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April 14, 2010

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JOBS...

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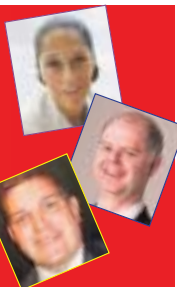
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ELECTION 2010

Who will be
your next MP?

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Round-up of all
the local action

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NOT GUILTY PLEAS IN HIT-AND-RUN MURDER

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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ON A ROLL: Watch Prime Minister Gordon Brown talking to workers at Aylesford Newsprint

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IT'S STRICTLY LUXURIOUS

Strictly Come Dancing stars James and Ola Jordon were first to test out the luxury bedrooms at a newly refurbished hotel.

The husband and wife team, who live in Kings Hill, were the guests of honour at the grand opening of 40 upgraded rooms at Oakwood House, Maidstone. Oakwood House, which is owned by Kent County Council, is used as a venue for weddings, events, conferences and now boasts stylish bedrooms.

KCC director of property Peter Binnie said: "Oakwood House is a fine place to stay or do business. The new bedroom suite is an excellent addition to the facilities available."

■ BY ANNA WHITE

CLOSE relatives of a father-of-five killed in a hit-and-run have pleaded not guilty for their part in his murder.

Bill Treeby, 49, appeared at Maidstone Crown Court on April 9 where he denied murdering his brother Jack Treeby.

The accused's wife Charity, 50, and their sons Bill (Jnr), 29, and George, 22, were alongside him in the dock.

They also deny murder.

All four, of Queen Street, Paddock Wood, also denied attempting to murder Gary Treeby, Jack and Bill's brother, and Jack's young son – Jack (Jnr) – and conspiring to kill another brother, John Treeby.

The charges relate to events which took place on Sunday, December, 27, of last year, in Quarry Road, Tovil, in Maidstone.

At 7pm, Jack Treeby, 43, from Rainham, was ploughed down by a Range Rover and crushed beneath its wheels. He died at the scene.

His son was allegedly clipped by the vehicle and treated for minor injuries.

Gary Treeby suffered life-threatening injuries during the incident, which were exacerbated by gunshot wounds, but has now recovered.

A further count of conspiracy to murder John Treeby was also put to the four defendants.

They are all accused of plotting his death between December 1 and 31 of last year.

Judge Andrew Patience QC warned other family members, who sat in the public gallery to listen to their relatives' pleas, to refrain from any outbursts during the hearing or he

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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your lifestyle
Come out and play
 The most stylish for the spring and summer months

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SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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Fergie's killer aide misses court date

■ BY ANNA WHITE

OFFICIALS were left baffled when convicted murderer Jane Andrews failed to show up in court to explain her escape from prison.

Andrews, 42, a former royal aide to Sarah Ferguson, was due to appear at Maidstone Magistrates Court on Friday, last week, to face the consequences after absconding from East Sutton Park Prison.

But court workers were at a loss to explain why she had failed to attend, even though she is currently detained in prison, believed to be Cookham Wood, near Rochester.

Andrews sparked a nationwide search in November, last year, when she went missing from the women's open prison, where she was serving a life sentence for murdering boyfriend Tom Cressman.

She was noticed missing during an 8pm roll call. Police finally traced her, after three days on the run, to the Premier Inn at the M20 services near junction eight.

Andrews had checked in to the hotel just hours before her arrest with her elderly mother and father and her brother.

Her parents had travelled by taxi from their home in Grimsby, to meet their fugitive daughter.

Cabbie Darren Auckland, 40, was asked to stop outside a graveyard at 12.30am, on Wednesday, November 24, and was left "stunned" when the mud-caked former royal dresser stepped out of the bushes.



ABSENT: Murderer Jane Andrews

The family asked Auckland to drive them north back to Grimsby, but he refused and instead dropped them off at the hotel at 2am, just six miles from the prison.

Police were tipped off about Andrews' whereabouts by a friend of the taxi driver.

The inmate, who was an aide to the Duchess of York for nine years, was jailed in 2001 for bludgeoning and stabbing her boyfriend to death after he refused to marry her.

Andrews would have been eligible for parole in February, 2012, after her minimum sentence was reduced from 15 to 12 years.

It is likely her latest offence will result in an extended sentence.

A police spokeswoman said the reason for Andrews' non-appearance last week has not been disclosed by the prison service.

The case at Maidstone Magistrates Court has been adjourned until Tuesday, when it is hoped Andrews will appear.

Partner agencies are open to suggestions

BOSSSES of the town's partner agencies will meet next week to consider ideas to improve Maidstone.

Representatives from the borough council, Kent County Council, police and other organisations will discuss suggestions submitted by residents.

It is essential that all the agencies are at the meeting, on Monday, as the ideas require a change to the law or transfer of responsibility.

The public are welcome to attend and hear about the proposed improvements to services and ongoing problems, such as buses and litter.

The meeting is due to start at 5pm in Maidstone Gateway, King Street.

Widdecombe target of anti-Lords protest

CAMPAIGNERS took to the streets to protest against the possibility of retiring MP Ann Widdecombe being elevated to the House of Lords.

On Friday, members of the Power 2010 group dressed as Lords in Maidstone town centre and asked shoppers to sign a petition demanding no more invitations to join the unelected House of Lords.

A day of action was held nationwide in constituencies where the retiring MP is likely to be invited to adopt the honour, including Maidstone and Weald's Ms Widdecombe.

Protesters want the three main party leaders to introduce a fully elected second chamber in the next Parliament and not appoint any more Peers.

Hazlitt calls the tune in search for singers

MUSICAL directors are on the hunt for singers to join a new choir.

Bosses at the Hazlitt Arts Centre want to find skilled vocalists – or even people who just like signing in the shower – for the choir when it launches this autumn.

Sessions will be held at the centre in Earl Street, Maidstone, every Wednesday evening and there will be an experienced tutor on hand to help with tricky numbers.

Hopefuls need to be over 18 years old. For more details, email natalieprice@maidstone.gov.uk.

Relatives deny Treeby murder charges

FROM FRONT PAGE
 would be "forced to deal" with them "there and then".

It is not known if Karen Treeby, wife of Jack (Snr), was present.

Speaking shortly after her husband's death, Mrs Treeby said: "He did not deserve what happened to him. I feel like my heart as been ripped open."

"We have been robbed of a wonderful, caring man who will live in our hearts for ever."

Jack Treeby was laid to rest after an extravagant funeral in Bredhurst on February 8.

His gold-plated coffin was taken to St Peter's Church by horse-drawn carriage and was followed by a procession of eight black limousines and seven flat-bed lorries, each carrying floral tributes thought to be worth

thousands of pounds. The flower arrangements included a bench press, tractor, forklift truck, a train and a large photo of Mr Treeby with the words 'My Brother Jack'.

The family members accused of his death have been remanded in custody until September 27, when they will face a four-week trial. They all face the following charges:

- The murder of Jack Treeby.
- The attempted murder of Gary Treeby.
- Causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Gary Treeby.
- The attempted murder of Jack Treeby (Jnr).
- Attempting to inflict grievous bodily harm on Jack Treeby (Jnr).
- Conspiracy to murder John Treeby between December 1 and 31.



VICTIM: Jack Treeby died in hit and run

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RAV SEERUTHUN
Labour

"I want to be an MP as I care passionately about the democratic process. I want to represent Maidstone and the Weald as someone who has made by career here."



STUART JEFFERY
Green

"A Green MP would provide Maidstone with an MP who would remain in-touch with real people, someone who would campaign for jobs, rights, equality and the environment."



GARETH KENDALL
UKIP

"I believe a UKIP MP for Maidstone will gain greater national attention and without the need to follow a government whip. My focus would be to speak for Maidstone's interests and nothing else."



PETER CARROLL
Liberal Democrat

"I hope that people have seen me fight for issues large and small - from major campaigns to issues of great significance to individuals. I feel I could do so much more as the MP."

FAVERSHAM & MIDKENT



TIM VALENTINE
Green Party

"As a Green MP I would campaign to create one million new jobs, building affordable homes, better public transport and providing fuel security through investment in efficiency and renewable energy."



ASHOK REHAL
Labour

"I know what makes a difference and what impact policies have on the lives of ordinary people. I want to make a difference and make everyone believe their view counts as much as the next persons."



SARAH LARKINS
UKIP

"I feel I can contribute to British politics and help restore the public's trust in MPs again by only claiming basic expenses as we, the public, do in the real world."



HUGH ROBERTSON
Conservative

"It is for others to judge whether I have been a success but I try to make time for everyone. I reply personally to every letter and email sent by my constituents and I try to support the many good causes in the constituency."



DAVID NACHI
Liberal Democrat

"The Liberal Democrats clearly have the best policies for pensioners, for students, and for families. Students should not be starting their working life with a huge burden of debt and people should not be working just to pay more tax to government."

HAIRY KNORM

Monster Raving Loony Party

"If elected I would make smaller classes by using smaller desks and I would also introduce a smile clinic at hospitals because you always feel better with a smile on your face."

Name calling begins as parties come out in force for your vote

BY ANNA WHITE

ELECTION 2010

ELECTION campaigns are well underway in Maidstone and the Weald - but are candidates doing enough to win your vote?

Since the General Election was announced last Tuesday, the town centre has been taken over by promotion stalls and top ministers have visited the borough.

Liberal Democrat candidate Peter Carroll officially launched his campaign at the top of Fremlin Walk last Wednesday - pitching up directly opposite a patch where volunteers for Conservative Helen Grant had also set up base.

The close proximity between the two parties led to some frosty looks and outbursts from supporters - with one Tory voter voicing his dislike for Mr Carroll and labelling his campaign as a "waste of time".

Another Tory supporter, Suzie Brooks, from Sutton Valence, said: "I have always voted Conservative and will continue to vote Conservative."

Mr Carroll said day one of his campaign for parliament had been a success.

"I think it has gone very well. It's good to get out here and meet the people to tell them what our policies are face-to-face and listen to what they want," he said.

Matthew Kerr, from Upper Fant, said: "I am swaying towards Peter Carroll as he did help campaign for



START: Gordon Brown visited Aylesford Newsprint just hours after announcing the election date

speed bumps in our area and seems to have the right approach.

"I haven't really decided who to vote for yet, but the expenses scandal hasn't put me off voting - let's face it all politicians are crooks."

The Labour candidate and keen hockey player, Dr Rav Seeruthun, has also been busy securing the support of his team-mates when he launched his campaign on the pitch on Saturday.

Positive

He said: "Local sport helps communities pull together and it mixes people from many different backgrounds together. I thought this would be a fun way to start the campaign as I will be running a positive campaign based on what I can offer Maidstone and the Weald."

Dr Seeruthun was given an extra boost for his campaign when the Prime Minister visited Aylesford

Newsprint just hours after he declared the Queen had agreed to dissolve Parliament. Gordon Brown, his wife Sarah and Jonathon Shaw, the Labour MP for Aylesford and Chatham, met with the site's staff and bosses during a tour of Medway.

Mrs Grant, who has just signed up for the London Marathon in aid of Maidstone-based charity Tomorrow's People, was also due to have a special visit yesterday from Tory shadow defence secretary Liam Fox MP.

Mr Fox was expected to be in the town at 3pm to meet staff at the Royal British Legion Village in Aylesford.

To vote you must register at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk.

During the upcoming weeks to voting day this paper will run special interviews with the hopefuls and keep you up-to-date with the election. You can also voice your opinion at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk or write to us.

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Little reminder of importance of liver research

■ BY ANNA WHITE

PARENTS of a baby diagnosed with a life-threatening disease celebrated a day they feared they would never see – their son's second birthday.

Chris and Alice Yelf, from Maidstone, had no idea their son Bertie had biliary atresia – a rare liver disease which causes the organ's bile ducts to become blocked – until he was diagnosed at eight-weeks old.

The worried parents rushed their newborn baby to hospital after his jaundice, which he was born with, persisted and they were told Bertie would need surgery to save him from the life-threatening illness.

Bertie recovered well and on Saturday, April 10 he turned two years old – much to his parents' delight.

Mr Yelf said: "It was lucky that Bertie's liver disease was caught when it was, as the surgery he had is best performed as early as possible.

"He recovered quickly and, with daily medication and regular hospital visits, he is just a joy.

"He is bumbling all over the place and is really talkative. We celebrated his birthday with family and friends."

Throughout the agonising wait for Bertie to recover in hospital, an officer from the Children's Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF) visited the family and offered them advice and comfort.

Mrs Yelf said: "A CLDF families officer visited us in hospital. She was excellent and so reassuring, giving us vital information on Bertie's disease, his operation, transplantation and what help is available.

"This came on a day we were terrified about coping – CLDF is a true lifeline to families like ours."

The husband and wife team say they are truly grateful to the foundation and hope their story will encourage others to help continue research.

Catherine Arkley, chief executive of CLDF, added: "Whilst CLDF-funded research means we know more about Bertie's liver condition than ever before, we have only touched the surface.

"There is still so much to do. Research is expensive and we really need every bit of



SURVIVOR: Bertie Yelf who was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness celebrated his second birthday

help and support that the public can give, particularly in these difficult times.

"It's vital that childhood liver disease is identified and treated as early as possible as this really can save lives.

"I urge parents, parents to be and community healthcare professionals to be alert to the signs and symptoms to look for, which are covered in CLDF's Yellow Alert campaign."

The husband and wife, who are now expecting another baby, have been told by doctors their son will likely need a transplant in the future.

Mrs Yelf added: "It will be fantastic for Bertie to have someone to grow up with and we aren't worried about our next child having a liver disease.

"I believe everything we have been through already has made us prepared for whatever comes our way."

For more information on CLDF's Yellow Alert campaign, visit www.childliverdisease.org/education/yellowalert.

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Anti-social crackdown

A POLICE operation to free villages of anti-social behaviour has proved a great success in its first location.

Officers from Maidstone's Neighbourhood Task Team have spent the past few weeks in Coxheath tackling problems with crime.

The team has made several arrests in the area for offences such as illegal drug taking, drink driving and public order offences outside shops on Heath Road.

From speaking to residents, officers discovered the main issue was large groups of youths meeting outside the shops, so it is hoped the recent action will help reduce the problem. The team also seized two vehicles with no insurance during the operation and handed out a number of street cautions for cannabis possession.

Following the success in Coxheath, officers now plan to move to another village with similar problems.

Antique pot theft appeal

AN appeal has been launched for the return of an antique pot to its owners.

The pot, which housed a yew tree, was stolen from the front doorstep of a house in Boormans Mews, Watlingtonbury.

The renaissance-style garden ornament, which is one of a pair that stood outside the home, was taken between 8pm on Thursday, April 1 and 8am the following morning.

It is believed the crime could have been carried out by three men, all wearing hooded tops, who were seen in the area with an old white transit van.

A cultural celebration

CULTURAL acts and groups are invited to showcase their talents and creations to thousands of visitors at an annual celebration.

The invitation is open to everyone as Maidstone council wants to find stall holders, volunteers and community groups to be involved in the town's Mela.

The event, which is held on Saturday, September 11 and Sunday 12, is a celebration of diversity and culture.

If you would like to take part, email alastairbarker@maidstone.gov.uk or call 01622 602508.



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RBLI celebrates new chief executive

THE Royal British Legion Industries has appointed former serviceman Steve Sherry as its new chief executive.

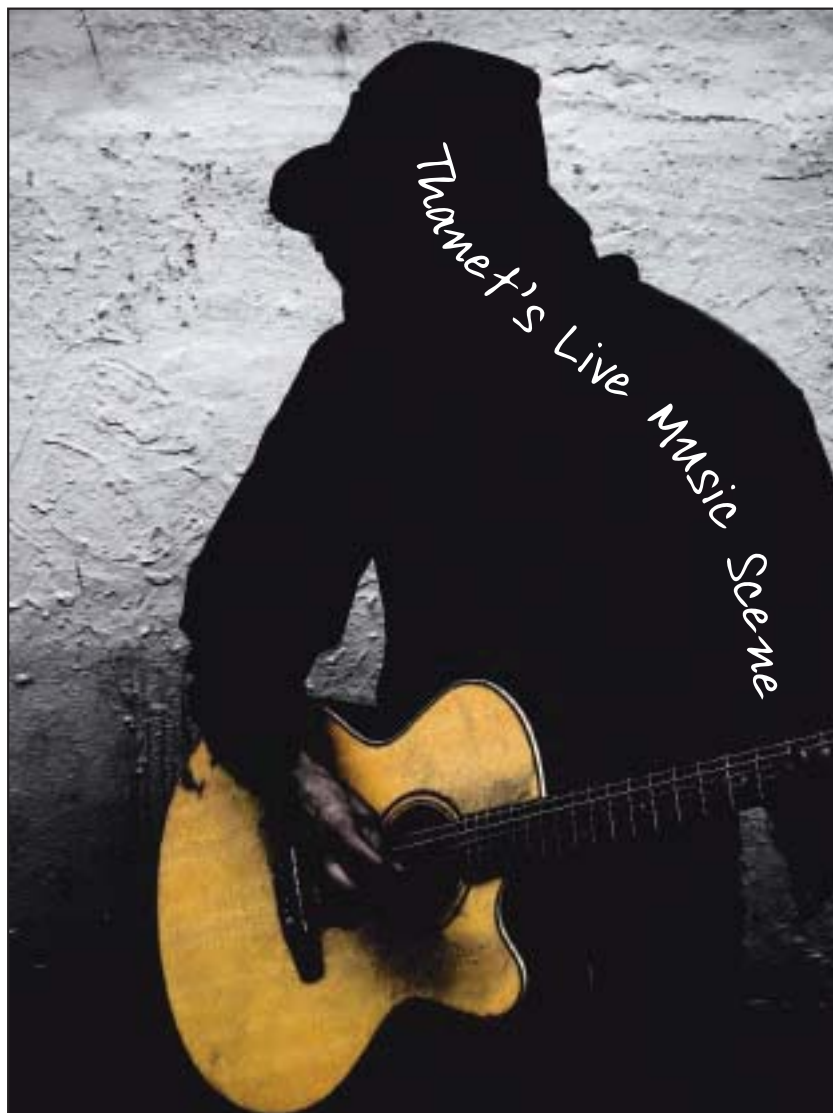
Mr Sherry OBE joins the Aylesford-based charity after a long career in the army, where his last post was defence advisor and senior British military representative in Pakistan.

In his new role, Mr Sherry will be responsible for identifying, developing and securing assistance and funding for both new and existing activities to support ex-servicemen and disabled residents.

The RBLI also offers employment opportunities and support to the families of former soldiers and vulnerable people.



NEW ROLE: Steve Sherry with wife Monika



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Saturday 17th April
Black Rose

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Friday 23rd April
Cold Shots

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Saturday 24th April
Captain Mildred

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 24th April
Purity

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
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Friday 30th April
Slug Pixel

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Saturday 1st May
Crazy Train

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Friday 7th May
V Twins

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Saturday 8th May
As Is Now

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Saturday 8th May
Captain Mildred

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Friday 14th May
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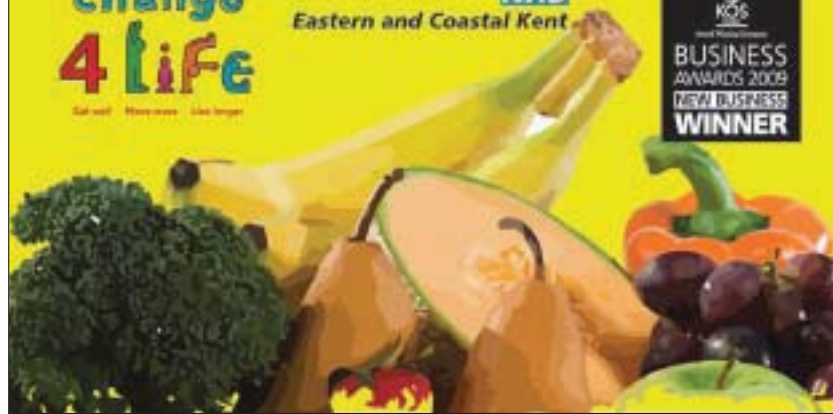
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ACE: Henman with youngsters in the town centre

Tim searches for young tennis aces

BRITISH tennis legend Tim Henman was in Maidstone town centre last week on the lookout for new sporting talent.

The former UK number one was in Earl Street on Tuesday, April 6, to launch his search for 75 tennis stars of the future.

The initiative to find the country's hidden sport stars marks the 75-year sponsorship partnership between Wimbledon and Robinsons soft drinks company.

Henman said: "Robinsons has been a part of Wimbledon as far back as I can remember, so I am delighted to be involved in its 75th year celebration and to help Robinsons encourage the next generation of players and rising tennis stars."

To celebrate the landmark anniversary, the competition team will scour the UK to find the 75 lucky youngsters who will win a two-day training camp at Wimbledon with Henman and head Wimbledon coach, Dan Bloxham.

Youngsters can enter their regional trial by registering online at www.robinsonsdinks.com/wimbledon.

Family grieve for doting dad Darren after bike smash

'He'd never let you down and was always helping'

■ BY ANNA WHITE

THE devastated wife of a loving father-of-three killed in a motorbike crash has paid tribute to his "generous spirit".

Kim Saunders said the death of her beloved husband, Darren, has ripped her life apart and has left a permanent void in the family.

The 36-year-old died from injuries he sustained when his motorbike crashed into a bus stop on Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, on Saturday, March 27.

He leaves behind his wife, their three children – 14-year-old Jack, Ellie, ten, and Rowson, 21-months old – and his mother and father, Sally and Derek.

Mrs Saunders said: "Our whole world has been ripped apart. None of us can imagine life without him. We are totally devastated to lose Darren."

"He had the best qualities of everyone rolled into one and now he's gone, we have a void in our lives which will never be filled."

"However much time I would have had with Darren, it would never have been enough."

Although Mr Saunders had a strong passion for life and bikes, his wife said his family was the

most important thing to him and that they are all struggling to come to terms with their tragic loss.

She added: "I couldn't have asked for a better father for the kids – he was always playing with them, whether it was tractor rides for Ellie of riding dirt bikes with Jack, he would do anything for them, he had so much patience."

"Nothing was ever too much trouble for Darren. He was always helping everyone."

"He'd never let you down and was always there to cheer you up with a constant smile."

Maidstone-born Mr Saunders met his future wife on a blind date, set up by friends. They hit it off instantly and married in April 2006.

Speaking of her late husband, Mrs Saunders said: "His smile is what I remember most – it's the first and last thing I see when I close my eyes."

"He was the best father and had the most caring and generous spirit."

Mr Saunders' father agreed with his daughter-in-law, saying: "I will always remember him forever young. My little boy with his cheeky smile."

The motorbike enthusiast will also be sorely



SORELY MISSED: Police are still appealing for witnesses to motorcycling accident that killed Darren Saunders

missed among his closest friends.

His best friend, Patrick, said: "He was so special to so many people and had a personality as big as his size, making everyone feel special."

"He always had a funny story to tell and would never be able to finish before bursting into laughter himself."

"Darren drew people in with his warm personality, taking people on face value and concentrating on the person inside."

The father-of-three's funeral was held at Harrietsham Church on Friday.

Police continue to investigate the fatal crash and officers returned to the scene, outside the Cherry Tree Pub, on Saturday, April 4, in hope of finding more witnesses – but with no success.



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QUESTION & ANSWER

CLIVE LAWRENCE



Q Tell us a little bit about yourself.

A I achieved my dream by working for the BBC as a journalist for more than 20 years and have gone on to run my own business from Gillingham, where we have lived since I came to work at BBC Radio Kent. As a Devonian I love cider and clotted cream. Our three girls have left home and are pursuing their careers so it's great when they come home for family Sunday lunch.

I am a member of Rotary and get huge satisfaction from taking part in a range of hands-on projects to help people in my community as well as those overseas.

Q Tell us a bit about the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB).

A It's Britain's leading business organisation, represents more than 200,000 self-employed and small business owners and is run by the members for the members. There are 6,581 Kent members.

Q What's the best bit about your job?

A As a professional communicator there is nothing more satisfying than to convince others that what you are saying is right. However, just telling the truth, as you see it, is not good enough; you have to look for ways to persuade others through real examples which your audience can appreciate.

Q And the most challenging?

A Finding a way around those people who have their minds made up and are resistant to change.

Q What do members get?

A As a right of membership, FSB members have access to a wide range of services including:

- Legal advice from qualified lawyers 24/7 all year
- Tax advice from Inland Revenue trained specialists.
- Tax protection against in-depth tax investigations for all FSB member's businesses.
- Information on employment law, health & safety, tax and commercial law through the FSB members-only website
- Legal documents downloadable in MS Word which can be styled to your business available through the same website
- Insurance cover for legal defence and an employment disputes service with payment of statutory awards

Q How do you qualify to join FSB?

A You have to be self-employed or run a small business of fewer than 250 people. In reality, 99 per cent of members employ 20 or fewer and 95 per cent employ up to 10 people.

Q Do you see things picking up after the recession?

A FSB Kent Business Barometer is run every six months, with the next due in two months' time.

Last November the economic climate appeared to have bottomed out and the decline of the previous three years had halted. The fact is that small businesses form the bedrock of the whole economy of the country. Just imagine if each business owner created just one job each. Overnight, Britain's unemployment figures would disappear!

Q What advice would you give to someone thinking of starting a business?

A Do your research and talk to as many people in business as you can to collect their tips. But remember only to talk to people who have succeeded – why get advice from people who have a poor track record?

Q Anything you'd like to add?

A Always make time for yourself and the family. In the end, they are the first priority!

To find out more about joining the Federation of Small Businesses, log on to www.fsb.org.uk or email membership@fsb.org.uk

Q&A The PR Officer for the Federation of Small Businesses and former BBC journalist talks to **Jill Hurst** about how he got the job and how the FSB has helped small businesses throughout Kent to survive the recession

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Civil rights group warn police over kept images

BY MARIJKE COX

KENT Police could face a flood of High Court cases after being accused of breaking privacy laws by storing photographs of innocent motorists.

Campaigners from the civil rights group Liberty have vowed to support anyone who wants to take legal action against the force after a report by the National Policing Improvement Agency revealed that pictures taken using automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology – which are stored for up to two years – sometimes catch passengers' faces.

The Liberty threat could spell particular trouble for Kent which has so far invested £5.3 million into the system and claims to be one of the leading constabularies in the UK for using ANPR.

The technology, launched nationally in 2006, is used to detect criminal activity, ranging from motorists with no insurance to stolen cars.

In Kent it records the movements of one million cars a day using 200 hidden cameras in undisclosed locations.

A Liberty spokeswoman said police originally said the system would be used only to identify unlicensed and uninsured drivers.

"Now we see it being used for a myriad of purposes without any public debate," she added.

Motorists without tax, MOT or insurance are most at risk of being stopped on the road due to the system being linked up to the national DVLA database, but vehicles used in criminal activity have also been detected.

As well as the fixed cameras, a team of dedicated mobile ANPR officers travel around the county stopping vehicles that have been flagged up.

But drivers' groups have also criticised the



BIG BROTHER: Liberty will support anyone who wants to take legal action against the force over use of images

system, claiming everyone is being treated as a potential criminal.

Ian Taylor, Kent spokesman for the Association of British Drivers, said although motorists understand the reasons behind ANPR, keeping details of innocent drivers for so long is unnecessary.

"We know it helps target criminals, we have no argument with that, but why does the system need to look at everyone and then keep their details, often of their faces, for such a long time?" he said.

"Police are treating everyone as a potential criminal, being tagged and tracked wherever they go.

Criticised

"In the past, officers stopped people who had done something wrong, but now everyone is treated as though they are criminals.

"We have concerns about this information and control. How long before we are controlled on when or where we travel?"

This is not the first time Kent Police has come under fire for its use of ANPR.

Last year it emerged that officers had used the technology to monitor protesters during the infamous Climate Camp rally at Kingsnorth in 2008, and that law-abiding citizens were later pulled over for no other

reason than that they had attended a demonstration.

Chief Insp Simon Black, head of ANPR at Kent Police, said it was unlikely images of innocent people would ever be viewed.

He said: "Cameras read the number plates on vehicles and do on occasions capture an image of the front seat passengers, but the primary objective of ANPR is to capture the make, model and colour of the vehicle to provide assistance in bringing offenders to justice.

"We retain the information – as required by the Data Information Commissioner in his ruling in January this year – for two years.

"The ANPR system reads about one million number plates a day, but if the vehicles are insured, taxed and have not been used in relation to a criminal offence then it is unlikely the images will ever be viewed.

"Therefore a person's privacy is not compromised."

Last week Kent Police was also criticised for handing out Speedwatch equipment to members of the public.

The force was accused of using 'Big Brother' techniques, allowing residents to monitor the speed of drivers in Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay.



ROW: Union claims that children could criticise lessons

Pupils used 'secret mobiles' to grade teachers' lessons

A SCHOOL gave pupils mobile telephones so they could send criticism of their teachers to more senior members of staff, claims a concerned union member.

Speaking at the annual Association of Teachers and Lecturers conference, teacher John Rivers revealed that children as young as 11 had used the technology to give instant ratings on their teachers' abilities to senior staff, and even during lessons.

He said that about 20 youngsters at the un-named secondary school in Kent were given the phones during what was called a "quality assurance" week.

Mr Rivers, who teaches information and communication technology (ICT) at a different school in the county, said he was contacted for advice by colleagues at the school in question.

He said: "I have no problem generally in asking pupils how they felt about my lesson. It's just I believe there should be clear guidance about how those observations should be conducted and reported."

Mr Rivers said the scheme was part of a drive spearheaded by the Government to make teaching staff more accountable for their style of running a classroom.

The conference was told of similar examples of schoolchildren apparently getting too much power when it comes to the content of lessons, behaviour policies and even the hiring and firing of staff. One example of excessive pupil power was when they interviewed a man and two women teachers for a job, and then picked the one they thought was the most attractive.

Plus a teacher seeking promotion was rejected for not singing the Michael Jackson hit Bad during an interview.

Speaking to reporters after the conference had finished, Mr Rivers said teachers at the Kent school were concerned they had not been forewarned or consulted on the scheme.

He said: "I understand it just happened. Staff were not aware of how it worked and there was a lack of transparency. I suppose staff must feel it's a bit threatening if it's not transparent."

A spokesman for the Department for Children, Schools and Families said it believed pupils should play an active role in their own learning and in the development of their schools. However, both KCC and Medway Council said it was unaware of mobile phones being used in any of its schools to critique teaching staff.

Kent university scientist involved in vital breakthrough with battle against cancer

SLOWLY but surely scientists are edging towards a cure for cancer – and now a Kent medical research team has revealed a new breakthrough in the long battle.

Dr Mark Howard's research at the University of Kent's School of Biosciences has led to the development of a new technique that will deliver cancer treatments direct to certain tumours, and he has now patented the discovery.

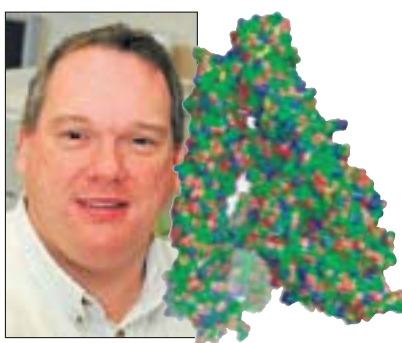
It is primarily aimed at targeting pancreatic cancer – which is currently very difficult to treat – and involves cancer-targeting peptides binding to a complex protein found in high levels on many tumour cells, but absent in most normal tissues.

By seeking out this protein and binding to it the peptides can deliver cancer treatments directly to the site with increased precision and reduced side effects.

And the treatment is so effective it is not going to be years before it's used.

In fact, the American company Aura Biosciences Inc has already licensed the technique from Cancer Research Technology.

Dr Howard's role in this development involved identifying the shape of the peptides.



CURE: Dr Howard identified the peptides' shape (above)

He said: "These peptides have a particular three-dimensional shape enabling them to specifically target this tumour-associated protein in a more effective way than ever observed before.

"We were able to model different peptide shapes and see a clear link between shape and effectiveness."

Dr Howard, a member of the school's

Protein Science Research Group, added that the technology has potential within tumour imaging and therapy for efficient identification and eradication of cancers.

The senior lecturer joined the School of Biosciences in 2001 and his research interests include the structural and dynamic characterisation of bio-chemically relevant molecules, enhanced structural stability in proteins and peptides, as well as advancing nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

Collateral damage when treating cancer cells has long been a major problem.

But Dr Phil L'Huillier, director of business management at CRT, said: "These peptides have the potential to seek out and destroy cancer cells, leaving the surrounding areas unharmed.

"We believe this technology could have particular strengths in delivering treatments for cancers that have limited treatment options, such as pancreatic and head and neck cancer.

"Crucially this targeted treatment could also reduce the side effects that are commonly associated with standard therapies.

"We look forward to the results of this programme with great interest."

Homework giving parents' headache

PARENTS asked to help with school homework are feeling the pressure as they struggle to support their child's learning, a new report has revealed.

Almost 80 per cent in the South East admitted to not understanding the curriculum, with 50 per cent of youngsters confessing to feeling confused when their parents try to help.

The report 'I'm stuck – can you help me?' – commissioned by the Government agency Becta aims to provide parents in Kent with information to show them how to support their children.

Schools are also being encouraged to set up websites and learning platforms to equip confused parents with the resources they need to help with homework.

Neil McLean, executive director of Becta, said using technology in this way is extremely beneficial to a child's learning.

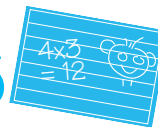
"Schools benefit from from parents' involvement and if children feel they are getting the right support from the schools and families, this has a positive effect on their grades," he said.

The report revealed 81 per cent of parents in the region are asked for help with homework by their children at least once a week. And one in ten parents confessed they felt unable to support their child, which was having a profound emotional effect.

Becta is pushing for schools to get involved in its Next Generation Learning programme, which urges education officials to use technology to link parents with their child's curriculum.

There are already a number of schools in Kent leading the way using ICT to improve links between work at school and at home.

For more information go to www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk.



Pupils to show off recycled designs

YOUNG fashionistas are to strut along a catwalk to show off some of the high street's latest collections.

The budding designers and models are students at New Line Learning Academies, in Linton and Loose.

The two academies are to stage the fashion show at the Loose site on Monday, May 10, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Students and staff take to the catwalk wearing outfits donated by stores in the town centre.

There will also be an appearance from Maidstone Town Centre Management's Bag Lady wearing a dress made from rubbish collected from the streets. She has inspired the youngsters to create their own recycled outfits for the show, which is hosted by a surprise celebrity.

Tickets are on sale now at the receptions in the academies and cost £5 for adults and £3 for children.

For details call 07894423075 or email moira.mitchell@newlinelearning.com.

Students open The Door on career in broadcasting

■ BY ANNA WHITE

MEDIA students proved to be in the right place at the right time when studio bosses invited them to work on a new celebrity game show.

The lucky pupils on the University of the Creative Art's new Foundation Broadcast Media course jumped at the chance to help with ITV's recent programme The Door.

The youngsters are based at Maidstone Studios, in Vinters Park, where the prime-time show is filmed with presenters Chris Tarrant and Amanda Holden.

UCA's senior lecturer Simon Welsford said: "I received a phone call from the head of Maidstone Studios asking if any of our students would like to help out on The Door which was being filmed down the hall."

"Of course they jumped at the chance to take part and immediately leaped into six tiring days of filming."

"It was fantastic that just three weeks into the first semester of the new Foundation Broadcast Media course our students are gaining work experience on a high-profile show."

"I knew they would get the chance to work on a series at some point, but I didn't expect it to be so soon."

"With more series coming into the studios in the next few weeks and months, it will be a very exciting time for the students."

The Door, which was broadcast this month, was a two-part special for ITV1 where six celebrities put their bravery to the test and



CHALLENGES: Presenters Amanda Holden and Chris Tarrant with the celebrities who took part in The Door

took on various challenges, which were designed to confuse and scare them.

The line-up included former EastEnders' actors Dean Gaffney and Louisa Lytton, Coronation Street's Jennie McAlpine, Boyzone singer Keith Duffy, Frankie Sandford from girl band The Saturdays and presenter Michael Underwood.

Host Tarrant, who is well-known for presenting Who Wants to be a Millionaire, said: "The scale of the set was absolutely massive – it's

probably the biggest studio I have ever worked in – it is just extraordinary."

His co-host Ms Holden, who is famous for her judging role on Britain's Got Talent, said: "The Door is a huge production with massive movie-style sets that look amazing."

UCA students are based at the studios to benefit from learning in a professional broadcast environment with the chance to get hands-on experience on television programmes.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

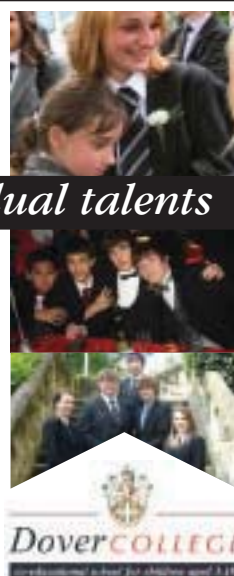
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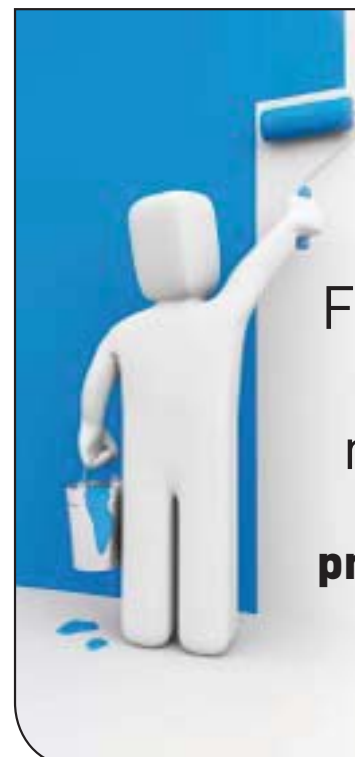
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YOUR LETTERS



TOP MAN: Peter Carroll with Joanna Lumley

Peter's best man to represent you

As the opinion polls show, the difficulty for the public is selecting the party that will best serve the country, when all their intentions seem to be good and, to the naked eye, fairly similar.

My firm belief is to vote for the individual. I think that it is our duty to study the case history of each candidate in our area and decide which person will fight hardest for the community.

For this reason I want to send my strongest support for Peter Carroll in the forthcoming campaign, and here is why: I have known him for two years and he is the toughest, straightest, most honourable and unflagging man I have ever met.

He never lies, he is generous to a fault – but keeps it a secret – he will follow a project until it is accomplished, and has a startling success rate in achieving his goals. He is kind and courteous, and has no airs.

He works like a demon at the speed of light. Nothing daunts him. He is accessible and friendly. He loves what he does, and would be a formidable MP for his constituents. I commend him to voters of all persuasions. In my opinion he is the man for Maidstone.

Give him your vote: he won't let you down.

Joanna Lumley,
by email



your blogger

Why the General Election should be the most exciting thing you'll do all year



ONLY three weeks and you forget all this General Election nonsense, eh?

Only three weeks and we can sit back and let our democratically-elected MPs run the country for another five years. Only another three weeks and your voice will no longer be heard...

In France 250 years ago philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote: "The English people believes itself to be free; it is gravely mistaken; it is free only during election of members of parliament; as soon as the members are elected, the people is enslaved."

Ok, JJ could go a little over the top and yes it might have lost something in translation ... but perhaps he has a point. Love 'em or loath 'em, New Labour who swept to victory in '97, have changed this country.

On the plus side, we have shorter waiting times for hospital operations; full-time workers are guaranteed 24 days paid holiday; Scots and Welsh have their own assemblies; there are 85,000 more nurses and 32,000 more doctors (and who knows how many more in pens-pushing admin staff). You get the idea, the former Blair wannabe MPs have done some good things.

On the flip side, Mr B Liar did take us into a war for reasons that we probably weren't too clear about. And there has been an explosion in made-up jobs in the public sector like nappy advisors for new mums (£25,000 a year; see Guardian jobs) and five-a-day co-ordinators (same salary, same jobs section) to tell us what to eat to stay healthy.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Simon Robinson**, on 01303 817185 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Group editor Gary Wright

safer more just society, one that respects and protects its citizens, especially the elderly.

To achieve these goals we need people in government with experience beyond politics.

As a little girl being brought up on a council estate by a single mum, I learned about the challenges facing those who are less well-off.

For our older and more vulnerable people, I have fought for their care and protection for the last 22 years as a legal aid lawyer.

As a business owner and employer I have faced many of the threats created by the caustic culture of rights, regulation and litigation.

If I am elected as your MP I will strive to achieve the change we need with conviction, drive and determination and will serve you with integrity, honesty and sincerity.

Helen Grant,
Conservative parliamentary candidate for
Maidstone and Weald, by email

MP Ann one of the old-school politicians

I'm sure many will miss MP Ann Widdecombe on her retirement (yourmaidstone 7/04).

She's a colourful character, who has championed many causes for her constituents.

She possibly could have gone on to greater things, but as William Hague and others who followed found to their cost, voters go for style over substance and prefer

perma-tanned snake oil salesmen, making promises they can't keep, running the country.

I was always amazed at how she could write books, write newspaper columns, appear on her own TV show, go on nationwide lecture tours and do all the other things she did, while carrying out her parliamentary duties.

What a woman!

I never understood though, how a professed committed Christian could be in favour of bringing back the death penalty.

Would she have given the lethal injection, or pulled the trap door lever?

Also, why did she vote to keep MPs' expenses secret, when the system was so obviously corrupt and totally alien to how her own voters would be expected to behave?

Maybe the admission she had managed to write two novels while we paid for her to travel first class could be a bit of a clue.

Sadly, old-style politicians such as Miss Widdecombe, are now being replaced by party ciphers, who vote as the Whips tell them, stifling all debate or individualism.

We have moved even further away from a democracy, with government by Cabinet or even just PM.

Phil Granger, West Malling
By email

Diary of a captive train passenger

Southeastern train passengers

We're in a bit of debt too, and while the financial collapse was world-wide, we in Britain are worse off because Labour gave bankers far too much freedom and we will be paying for that cock-up for 40 years.

Immigration is a massive issue for this once-tolerant nation. In Labour's diversity-aware Britain we have an organisation for every group, be it ethnic, transgendered, gay, single parent, etc, etc.

However, while there is a black chief police officers' association the same thing couldn't exist for Caucasian cops.

But as the flood of refugees, n'er-do-wells, criminals and economic migrants have invaded Britain over the past decade, few dare discuss it for fear of being branded a BNP supporter or racist.

That surely is the legacy of Blair's Britain. We are watched by more CCTV cameras than any other nation, and the vital need for a voice to be given to all minorities has resulted in the majority thinking it's best to stay quiet.

If you own a guest house and suggest you are not happy letting a gay couple stay there, you'll get a visit from your not-so-friendly neighbourhood cop.

A pet shop owner who sold a goldfish to a boy aged 14, ends up tagged, fined and with a criminal record.

That's Britain under Labour.

Jean-Jacques probably had it right. So enjoy the next three weeks, it is our big chance to get the government we deserve. But will we take it?

were subjected to three hours plus stuck in a landslide between Maidstone East and Bearsted on Friday, February 26.

I arrived at Maidstone East to catch the 17.57 to Ashford, after a seminar at Police HQ. The train was a few minutes late.

I was told there was a slight delay as there may be a 'small' landslide near Bearsted.

There were about 60 passengers in the rear four coaches and 20-plus in the front two.

18.05: We're under way, trundling down the line until we grind to a halt. We've hit something – it's too dark to see properly.

18.25: Told an engineer has been sent for to assess whether we can get going. He's just left Paddock Wood! Half an hour's wait.

19.00: He's arrived, and has a big torch. We're trying to be light-hearted about it.

He's 'assessing the situation'.

19.15: Upline train passes. People are trying to keep families etc updated on their mobiles.

19.30ish: They need to cut away a bit of chicken wire.

The previous train has lurched to a halt at Lenham having ripped up the fence (Oh joy).

There's a pregnant women in the front two coaches, needing water. There's none available.

19.45: They're sending another train from Ashford to detrain us across to it – probably back to Maidstone East.

19.55: Guard, who's doing her best, regains mobile signal, but says they

are looking for the passenger ramp to get people across.

20.05: We're trying to be upbeat, but the mood in the rear three carriages is apparently rather 'ugly'.

We're all getting rather

hungry and thirsty too.

20.10: Some more workmen are coming to dig us out.

20.15: Upline train passes.

Anyone, know how to contact International Rescue?

20.20: Power's off altogether, we're in the dark and it's getting cold in here anyway.

20.30ish: Let there be light – three diggers have arrived. Er, with an arc light, a few torches, some large wire cutters and a couple of spades.

20.50: We're watching them dig, cut and a bit of chain-sawing (but only a bit).

They're looking up at the landslide – will more come down? Mud looks pretty sodden...

21.00: More digging – can train get past?

21.15: Upline train passes.

21.20: Power on again. We lurch, then stop, then move again. Crawl into Bearsted. Passengers from London etc detrain.

What about the rest of us? (We're waiting for the signalman to say – the signal's green anyway though)

21.25: Everybody off – on to waiting coaches. No sign, of course, of any refreshments; then clambering over the bridge.

I'm tired already ... Pile on to coaches. First one goes full, I'm on the second one with a few others.

Train departs. Coach driver says the train's been sent empty to Ashford so the line must have been cleared earlier! (Coach driver says they've been mucked about as well)

22.00: Arrive Ashford Intl: No staff to meet us.

We are left to fend for ourselves as they hide in their cubby-holes, for half an hour on freezing platforms for trains to Folkestone, Hastings and Canterbury.

23.00: Arrive home, five hours after leaving Maidstone East (cold, tired hungry, thirsty and 'rather angry').

Why was this train let through in the first place? Why were SE Trains relying on the driver alone, with a lot of passengers onboard, to assess the situation.

Why did an engineer, and later team, have to come from Paddock Wood to assess the situation?

Why couldn't they find the passenger transfer ramp?

Why were no refreshments offered at Bearsted? Why was the train allowed to go to Ashford, while we had to go by coach?

Why was no one at Ashford to assist with onward travel?

When will SE Trains be doing major remedial work at this point on the line to ensure that no further landslips occur?

The obvious answer to all of the above?

Oh it'll cost us money, it's not efficient or cost-effective et al, so you lot will have to make do with feeble excuses, unmeant apologies, loads of PR and spin etc, being cold, tired, hungry etc, while we laugh all the way to the bank.

Ray Duff,

Comment posted on
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School standards 'will be hit' by cuts

A CHILDREN'S services union has warned of a potential drop in achievement in Kent schools if "deep funding cuts" are not properly considered.

It follows an announcement in February by Kent County Council that some 260 jobs could be slashed from its department for children, families and education in a bid to save £8million.

At the time Cllr Sarah Hohler – cabinet member for the department – insisted frontline services would not be affected, but professional schools improvement staff now believe performance levels will be hit.

Children's services union Aspect, said the restructuring would mean cuts in services that offer professional support to schools.

Restructuring within the department would see seven per cent of jobs lost. In secondary schools improvement teams, however, there could be a 50 per cent reduction in staffing, with no current indication of redeployment in other areas, according to Aspect.

Union officials and school workers argued the plans were developed with little or no consultation with key stakeholders.

But Rosalind Turner, managing director for children, families and education at KCC, said: "We are not yet half way through the consultation and we are interested in any additional proposals to deliver the required efficiencies."

She added that despite the possible changes, a high degree of support for schools would be maintained.

"Our strategy is to reduce management and administration as much as possible, and to protect direct services to children, young people and families," she said.

Drugs, weapons and cigs all stopped at the border

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

BORDER control officers based across Kent helped seize more than £237 million worth of illegal drugs in just one year.

They also helped prevent 27,000 dangerous weapons from reaching the streets as well as 557 million smuggled cigarettes representing a loss in tax revenue of £109 million.

Launched on April 1, 2009, the UK Border Agency was formed when customs and immigration officers joined forces as one single organisation. It is based in Dover and is also represented at the French ports of Calais, Coquelles, Dunkirk and Boulogne.

Regional director Tony Smith said: "The public expects us to keep the UK border safe and secure at all times because drugs, illegal immigration and contraband damage communities and businesses. That's why we have a strong new force at the border with combined customs and immigration powers, which works 24 hours a day to stop illegal immigrants and smugglers."

During the past year more than a million freight vehicles have been searched at British border controls in northern France and Belgium, with 29,000 illegal attempts to cross the Channel thwarted.

Notable successes include the seizure of £3.7m of drugs from just one lorry – which was



STOPPED: Tobacco and an avocado stuffed with cocaine were seized by UK Border Agency officials at Dover

loaded with oil drums packed with heroin, amphetamine, ecstasy and cannabis – as well as the discovery of 5kg of cocaine hidden in a car bumper and 1.2 tonnes of hand-rolling tobacco concealed in a cargo of boilers.

The agency also carries out intelligence-led operations to catch illegal workers and other immigration offenders.

Where companies are found using illegal workers they face a fine of up to £10,000 per employee. Examples include the arrest of six onion farmers from Iraq and Palestine who

were caught working at a farm in north Kent, and a £30,000 fine for the Hands On Car Wash firm in Ashford, Tenterden and Folkestone that was found to be employing illegal immigrants.

Large companies have also been caught out as well, such as the Whitstable branch of Domino's Pizza that was fined £10,000 for giving work to an illegal Indian and Kosovan.

Mr Smith added: "We are dedicated to stopping drugs getting onto our streets, removing illegal migrants and locking up or deporting the most serious criminals."

"We will continue to crack down on foreign nationals who don't play by the rules, and the people and organisations behind them."

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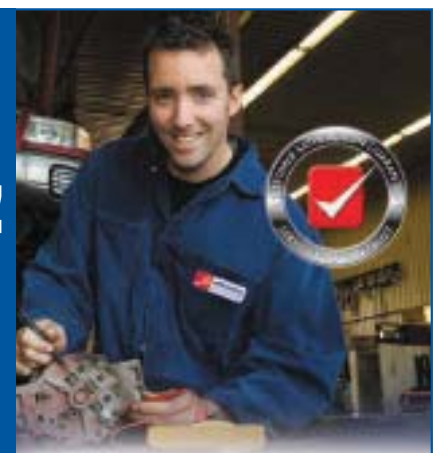


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COMPETITION 25

WEATHER 24

STYLE 22

LEISURE 18-20



DAY & NIGHT

Make a date for jazz

TWO great jazz musicians will be performing at the RAFA Club in Chatham on Friday.

Tickets to see award-winning saxophonists Ray Gelato and Derek Nash and their quintet cost £10. The music starts at 8.30pm. For details call 01634 365352/362704 or 07544 312743 or visit www.coljazz.webs.com.

Rock 'n' roll with Ricky

STEP back in time and dance the night away with rock 'n' roll singer, Ricky Fontayne.

The 50s and 60s tribute act is at the UK Paper Leisure Club in Sittingbourne on Friday. For more information about the venue call 01795 426451.

Find out more about Fontayne by visiting www.rickyfontayne.com.

Talk on family history

HISTORIAN Dr Nick Barratt will explore how the media has helped to track down our ancestors on Tuesday.

The man behind BBC's Who Do You Think You Are will talk about the show and family history research in the digital age at Chatham Library at 7.30pm.

Admission costs £5/£4. To reserve call 01634 332714.

Mixed Nuts on stage

ENJOY a taste of Mixed Nuts when Alternate Shadows Theatre Group presents a comedy sketch show.

The home-grown performance of comic skits and characters can be seen at Chatham's Brook Theatre at 7.45pm tonight. Admission costs £6. To book tickets call 01634 338338 or visit www.whatsonmedway.co.uk.

Kids can fight pirates

CHILDREN can help battle the Sith Pirates in interactive theatre show, Robinson Crusoe: the Lost Jedi Knight.

Youngsters can get involved in the production from Spotlites Theatre Company at Kings Theatre in Chatham at 2pm on Thursday and Sunday. Tickets cost £5.50/£4.50 or £18 for families.

To book call 01634 829468.

Encounter spirit world

MEDIUM Shaun Dennis demonstrates his powers in Maidstone on Thursday.

The psychic is renowned for his accurate statements and aims to raise awareness of the spirit world. He can be seen at the Hazlitt Theatre at 8pm.

Tickets cost £15/£13. Book online at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk or call the box office on 01622 758611.

Soul funk – and pizza

LIVE soul jazz music is on offer at Pizza Express in Maidstone with Lee John.

The original lead singer of soul funk group Imagination will be performing with his quartet on Friday, playing songs from his acclaimed album Feel My Soul.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £15. Bookings can be made online at www.pizzaexpresslive.co.uk.

Magic night with a comedy legend

JUS' LIKE THAT



Wednesday, April 28
Central Theatre, Chatham.

SPEND an evening remembering a comedy legend with a fond tribute to Tommy Cooper.

Jus' Like That! – A Night Out With Tommy Cooper gives both established fans and younger audiences the chance to hear his best gags performed live once again, as Clive Mantle stars in this hilarious and fascinating show.

Even though Cooper died on stage 26 years ago, he is still widely regarded as one of the UK's most popular comedians of all time and continues to command great affection and respect.

A huge fan of Cooper, Mantle is delighted to be donning the famous fez and delivering the comedian's timeless one-liners.

He trained with magician Geoffrey Durham, also known as the Great Sorprendo, to master Cooper's deceptively clever tricks and perfect the shambolic act that endeared Cooper to so many people.

Written by John Fisher, who worked with Cooper for many years, the show not only celebrates his remarkable talent but also explores the darker side of Cooper's life. But the show is designed to celebrate the memory of a very human but very gifted performer, and fans of all ages will enjoy the uproariously funny production.

While serving during World War II, Cooper performed in a NAAFI entertainment party and hit on the idea of performing magic tricks with accompanying jokes. Although he went on to perfect a magic act that went wrong for comic effect, he was actually a very competent magician and a member of the Magic Circle.

He entered show business in the mid-1940s and took his act around variety theatres, including London's famous Windmill Theatre. Cooper had already noted that his failed tricks were even more popular with audiences than his successful ones, but he would continue to occasionally pull off a spectacular trick to surprise his fans.

After making his television debut in a BBC talent show in 1948, Cooper landed his own series and became one of the country's best-loved comedians.

However, his heavy drinking and smoking habits took a toll on his health and contributed to a decline in his television work.

Cooper's drinking also affected his personal life, leading to accusations of wife-beating and infidelity, and this show does shine a light into the darker corners of Cooper's life.

But the production also celebrates the remarkable talent and warmth of this iconic performer, who suffered a heart attack in front of a live television audience in 1984.

At first his collapse was assumed to be part of the act, but he had become seriously ill and died that evening.

Clive Mantle will be familiar to viewers from



his roles in Casualty, Holby City and The Vicar of Dibley. As a lifelong fan of Cooper, he will be fulfilling a cherished dream by stepping into the comic's shoes and bringing this unforgettable performer back to the stage.

During the rehearsal process, Mantle had the chance to try on Cooper's favourite fez, which was a truly magical moment for the actor.

Whether you are a long-term fan of the comedian or discovering Cooper's talent for

the first time, this hilarious and enlightening show should not be missed. It starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £18/£16.50. To book, call the box office on 01634 338338 or visit the website at www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk.

Jus' Like That! – A Night Out With Tommy Cooper can also be seen at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells at 8.30pm on Monday. Tickets cost £18.50/£15.50. Book online at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01892 530613/532072.





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THE CORPSE IN THE CRYPT

Friday, April 16, Rochester Cathedral

THE peace of religious life is shattered by a horrific murder in the crime mystery, *The Corpse in the Crypt*.

In the new murder mystery from Pyramid Puzzles, the dreadful death interrupts the calm atmosphere at the Benedictine Priory of St Andrew. Set in the medieval period, this gripping story is played out in the beautiful setting of Rochester Cathedral by Alternate Shadows Theatre Group.

During Vespers, Brother Alwyn is reading from the Book of Hours to his fellow monks

when a shocking event occurs. At first they do not see a monk come staggering into the chapel, gripped by his death throes. The only clue is the human bone clutched in his lifeless hand.

When Barnabus, Sheriff of Rochester, asks his friend Brother Alwyn for help, they set out on an exciting search for the cold-blooded murderer.

The fund-raising performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £6, including free interval drinks. To book call 01634 810074.

For details email development@rochestercathedral.org.



HARVEY ANDREWS

Thursday, April 22, Brook Theatre, Chatham

ENTER the highly entertaining world of Harvey Andrews, a master of musical storytelling.

Artists such as Mary Hopkin and Christy Moore have covered his songs, while folk stars like Martin Carthy, Ralph McTell, Richard Thompson, Danny Thompson and Dave Pegg have played on his own recordings.

He has performed as far afield as Canada, the United States, Newfoundland and Ascension Island, winning International Artist of the Year in the Canadian Porcupine Awards for Folk Music.

Andrews has appeared on

more than 50 television shows, including the Old Grey Whistle Test and Rhythm on Two, and has made his own TV contribution by writing and singing the theme songs for Golden Pennies and The Haunted School. He also sang the theme tune for the British film, *Psychomania*.

Andrews' lyrics were used in coursework for the national GCSE English language exam.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £10 or £9 for mailing list members.

Book online at www.whatson-medway.co.uk or call the box office on 01634 338338.

THE COMEDY CLUB

Friday, April 16, Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham



THREE top comedians will be aiming to hit the target with their hilarious gags at The Comedy Club.

Gillingham Football Club hosts an evening of laughter at this opening show, with another due on August 13.

Audience members will have the chance to submit their own gags to the joke competition during the interval and could win big prizes.

Irish life coach Pdraig Hyland reveals his unique take on life and acts as MC for the evening, welcoming fans and making sure the show goes smoothly. Renowned for his warmth, Hyland will be offering a few life lessons in his own amusing style.

Award-winning funnyman Gerry K aims to score a few comedy goals with his fresh, observational comedy, presented with energy and charisma.

Headline act Nick Wilty is known as the 'Globetrotting Comedian', due to the fact that he has performed on every continent except Antarctica. His accolades include Best International Act, awarded in San Francisco.

The over-18s show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £15 for the comedy only, or £22 to include a basket meal. To book call 01634 300000 or visit www.haha-heehee.com.



HORRIBLE SCIENCE

Tuesday, April 20 to Saturday, April 24, Orchard Theatre, Dartford



BRACE yourself for a truly disgusting experience with the fun and educational *Horrible Science*.

By picking out all the most gruesome and stomach-churning aspects of the subject, Birmingham Stage Company takes the audience on a fascinating and grisly journey through the world of science.

Suitable for children aged six above, this show will captivate all the family as it asks such important questions as why do we produce 50,000 litres of spit in our lifetimes? Can you kill deadly diseases using just orange juice?

Guiding the audience through the Bathroom of Doom and Toothbrush of Terror is Billy Miller, a cheeky 10-year-old who ends up doing battle with the many dangers of *Horrible Science World*.

Join him as he discovers the fatal forces of gravity and magnetism and learns more about how microbes cause nasty diseases.

The show covers much of the Key Stage 2 science curriculum in a fun and exciting way that will enthrall both science lovers and newcomers to the subject.

Tickets cost £14/£11 or £44 for families of four. To book call 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.



KENT YOUTH CHOIRS

Saturday, April 17, St Matthew's Church, Wigmore



ENJOY the sound of sweet music from talented young singers when Kent Youth Choirs perform this weekend.

Some of the county's most promising young performers will demonstrate their uplifting talent at their annual concert on Saturday.

Kent County Junior Choir features children aged from 11 to 14, while the Kent County Junior Singers is made up of youngsters aged from eight to 13.

With their colourful T-shirts and enthusiastic love of performance, the Kent County Junior Singers are often

dubbed 'the Smarties' and are guaranteed to put a smile on the faces of any audience. They have travelled to Holland and Germany, along with performances in the Gillingham, Rochester and Medway festivals and an appearance at the Schools' Prom, held at London's Royal Albert Hall.

Kent County Junior Choir has also taken its talent abroad, performing in France and Belgium. They also made an appearance at the National Festival for Youth at the Royal Festival Hall.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £6/£4 on the door. To find out more about the choirs call Kent Music on 01622 691212 or visit www.kent-music.com.

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PROGRAMME FOR THE EVENING:

- 7.00 pm Champagne and Canape Reception
- 7.30 pm Dinner is served
- Entertainment
- A short live auction
- Dancing to live band and disco
- The draw will take place at midnight to find the lucky winner of the Mini First car competition
- Dancing continues until 1 am

- Dress Code: Black Tie
- Carriages: 1.00 am
- Tickets: £100.00 each (tables are for 10 guests and smaller numbers will be combined)

Be part of what promises to be a fabulous evening in a stunning setting including a champagne and canape reception, three course dinner prepared by Eastwell Manor's award winning Head Chef and his team and dancing to a live band and disco to raise money for a very worthy cause. Contact Sarah Taylor on 01795 845204 or email sarah.taylor@demelza.org.uk to reserve your table.



Committee members: Mr Tardoo Parvett (Ball Chairman), Patsy Barrett, Lindsey Blake, Sue Cross, James Hanaway, Dee Jones, Sarah Kembley, Sharon Parker, Sally Rumbellow, Katie Scott, Fina Stanley.



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WOMEN seeking men

WAITING FOR YOU Oriental single mum, 25, easy-going, looking for a nice guy, similar age, for lasting happiness. Box 851890 **Q**

ARE YOU HER MAN THE MATCH? Fun-to-be-with, football-loving, blonde female, 25, 5'11", enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 **Q**

THE ART OF THE MATTER 27-year-old female, 5'10", medium-curved build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, W/LTM tail, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644 **Q**

STEP UP TO THE OCHE WITH ME! Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5'11", loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 **Q**

FANCY A CUDDLE? Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5'13", slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326 **Q**

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, W/LTM cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879331 **Q**

COULD I BE THE ONE? Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464635 **Q**

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, W/LTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 **Q**

SHREK'S APPEAL! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5'10", short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 **Q**

FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY FREE Curvy brunette, 35, with green eyes, 5'03", no ties, looking for an affectionate, and caring non-smoking guy to put the sparkle back into my life. Ashford. Box 849706 **Q**

TERMS OF ENDEARMENT Mum of 2, 35, W/LTM genuine, honest, kind, down to earth guy interested in working towards loving relationship. Must like children and live in Kent! Box 865131 **Q**

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5'3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 **Q**

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 **Q**

GROW OLD WITH ME Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164 **Q**

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5'4", medium-large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 **Q**

PUT A SMILE ON MY FACE Mum of three, 38, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male, 36-43, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 **Q**

MAGIC IN MARGATE Loving female, 36, 5'4", brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 **Q**

FAMILY LIFE Fun to be with woman, 39, I love life, drinks in, walks, family life etc. Looking for a similar man in the Canterbury area. Box 467392 **Q**

FAMILY ORIENTATED Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5'10", slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034 **Q**

CUTE AS CAN BE Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983 **Q**

SHOW ME HEAVEN Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area. With a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608 **Q**



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DON'T LET ME DOWN Pretty, black female, 38, 5'4", like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 **Q**

HAPPINESS, THE GREATEST GIFT... Shy female, 40, 5'9", blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, wine and dining, holidays; seeking likewise gentleman to be happy with. Box 446763 **Q**

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, with a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **Q**

FOR A RELATIONSHIP? Shy but confident-one known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106 **Q**

MANY INTERESTS Hi, I'm based in Ashford and I'm looking for a nice guy in the area. I'm a single mum, 42 and enjoy cooking, and cosy nights. Box 468148 **Q**

NEW TO THIS Attractive single mum of 2, 43yrs old, 5'11", medium build, GSOH, likes cooking, spending time with family & animals. W/LTM fun loving, kind, genuine man. Kent. Box 855182 **Q**

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU? Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5'9", dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5ft9+. Box 461129 **Q**

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BE MY FRIEND AND PARTNER Hi there, I'm female, 43, 5'10", medium build, long dark hair/green eyes. I enjoy cinema, eating out etc and W/LTM genuine, caring, loving male. Chatham. Box 466612 **Q**

ANOTHER CHAPTER Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037 **Q**

GET CLOSE Funny, cheerful lady, 44, 5'6", curly hair, very social, likes walks and pubs. Looking for a cuddly and outgoing man for a close relationship. Faversham. Box 467518 **Q**

HOW YOU DOING? Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128 **Q**

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5'10", likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gsoh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348 **Q**

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 **Q**

COME ON OVER Fun-loving girl, 47, dark hair/eyes, attractive, looking for a similar male to enjoy nights out and good conversation. Rainham. Box 854480 **Q**

WHY WAIT? Single curvy mum of three, 46, dark hair and blue eyes, GSOH, loves animals, socialising, seeking a similar and romantic man. Tunbridge Wells. Box 467997 **Q**

POSSIBLE LTR African lady, full figured and radiant! I'm a Christian, 46, 5'10", attractive, caring and intelligent and enjoy jazz, travel, theatre, W/LTM decent, white male, Gillingham. Box 466617 **Q**

NOTHING VENTURED... Humble lady, 47, GSOH, down to earth, non-smoker, enjoys life, likes meals and days out, seeks a life-loving guy to enjoy a meal with. Rochester. Box 466286 **Q**

GENIE IN A BOTTLE Slim blue-eyed blonde, 47, 5'4", animal lover with no ties, very sociable, non-smoker, loves the countryside, seeking easygoing companion and soulmate. Box 468120 **Q**

ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL Young-looking 46yr old female, 5'4", slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5'10", to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938 **Q**

YOUNG AT HEART Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, worldly man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113 **Q**

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME? Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 **Q**

HELP ME OPEN UP Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, W/LTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 **Q**

NORMAL GAL Female, 48, divorced and happy, 5'10", looking for genuine man, laughter, sincerity, smart, kind, tall honest man, age under 49 and over 30 a must. Maidstone. Box 866390 **Q**

A REAL DIAMOND African lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury Box 460999 **Q**

MAKE IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686 **Q**

DREAM LOVER Petite blonde, young 49, loving, caring, enjoy music, walking, theatre dining in/out, looking for friendship and more with a genuine, caring and honest man. Rochester. Box 854822 **Q**

ANY TAKERS? Divorced single mum, 49, 5'4", animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557 **Q**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU Slim blonde, 51, 5'13", very caring, active, loves diy and gardening, with a man with similar interests to get to know better. Sheerness. Box 467112 **Q**

DON'T PASS ME BY Petite brunette, 51, 5'1", likes live music, pubs and socialising, gosh, seeking a like-minded male for a serious relationship. Hastings. Box 467807 **Q**

HERE AND NOW Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524 **Q**

JUST IMAGINE Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, W/LTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 833562 **Q**

CARING & PROFESSIONAL Female 49, 5'10", tall hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 471100 **Q**

LOVELY BUBBLY Short 5'1yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 **Q**

IT COULD BE US Happy-go-lucky lady, 53, 5'13", slim, blonde-brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 464601 **Q**

LOVE AND LAUGHTER AND HAPPY TIMES Petite woman, 53, with blonde/brown hair and blue eyes, 5'3", enjoy socialising, walking, cinema and generally having fun with a tall, honest man. Gillingham. Box 858610 **Q**

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL... Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 **Q**

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You can choose to text the member's 6-digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to **82250** e.g. 654321 Hi my name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

SMART MOVE Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854 **Q**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS! Smart petite lady, 56, 5'4", tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448786 **Q**

QUALITY TIME 55 year old lady, 5'10", blonde hair, blue eyes, GSOH, quite fit, enjoys the outdoors, lots of walking, politics, family time with the right man. Box 848381 **Q**

MUSIC TO MY EARS Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914 **Q**

WALKS ALONG THE COAST Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 **Q**

DREAMS OF YOU Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 448566 **Q**

LOTS OF HUGS Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5'14, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe. I enjoy art and walks, seeking similar intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002 **Q**

HOMELY LADY Easygoing lady, 61, 5'11", walks, cosy nights, pubs, meals etc. I'm hoping to meet someone for friendship, and then well come. Folkestone. Box 466963 **Q**

WHAT'S LIFE WITHOUT LOVE? Very bubbly and outgoing, bright, positive Gillingham lady, 61, lived abroad and considered intelligent, but very lonely! How about a drink? Box 468274 **Q**

BRIGHTENING UP Cuddly lady, 61, 5'10", blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. W/LTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214 **Q**

BE YOURSELF Outgoing lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760 **Q**

OUTGOING LADY Young looking lady, 62, 5'10", blonde hair/hazel eyes. I have GSOH and like music, bowls, cinema country pubs. W/LTM man, 55-65 for friendship and more. Canterbury. Box 468269 **Q**

SIMPLE PLEASURES Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build. I love dancing, walking by the sea and W/LTM like minded gent. Box 459467 **Q**

LOVE ME DO Loving and caring lady, 63, 5'13", brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 468082 **Q**

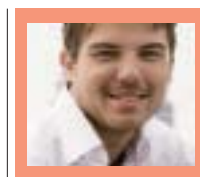
START A NEW CHAPTER 64 year old widow, 5ft, slim and fit, active and healthy, likes walks, theatre, gardening a social woman seeking similar non-smoking gent in Canterbury area. Box 467844 **Q**

LIFE IS GOOD! Slim, attractive lady, 65, enjoy outdoors pursuits, dog walking, socialising and music, lots of time and to give to the right person. Maidstone. Box 466636 **Q**

Women seeking women

MY HEART TO YOU 37 year old gay female from Kent, dark brown eyes, dark hair, loves the outdoors and fresh air, gardening, DIY, seeks feminine lady for love. Box 467298 **Q**

LOVE TO LOVE Easygoing female, 40, blue eyes, blonde hair, medium build, likes wine, dining, socialising, holidays, walks cinema; seeking like-wise female for companionship and more. Box 446953 **Q**



MEN seeking women

COME ON OVER Hi, dear 25 year old male, 6ft, loves watching movies, football and adventures. Looking for female for friendship and relationship...Chatham. Box 848292 **Q**

SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY 28yr old guy, 6ft, dark hair, multi-coloured eyes, random sohi, likes music, spending time with friends, sport, seeking a quirky girl to share life with. Tonbridge. Box 456800 **Q**

TAKE A CHANCE Happy-go-lucky guy, 30, slim, brown hair/green eyes, likes rock music, gigs and pubs, looking for a female, 35-30, for good times and possible LTR. Box 466789 **Q**

FOR LOVE Hard-working male, 29, 5'10", dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays harder! likes going/eating out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking similar happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752 **Q**

ENJOY EACH OTHERS COMPANY 34yr old chap, I'm a single dad, and I'm hoping to meet someone special, hopefully a kind, laid back, loving lady. Chatham. Box 468225 **Q**

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE? Fit, active man, I'm single, good looking, 40yrs old. I like cinema, walks, and eating in and out. Ashford area. Box 465467 **Q**

BOTTLE OF WINE Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5'10", medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165 **Q**

CAN YOU PUT UP WITH ME? Hi all I'm 37, 6ft, blue eyes, brown hair and medium build, great cook and SOH, seeking similar lady to take out. Box 451503 **Q**

MAKE ME SMILE AGAIN Seeking genuine lady. I'm a 38yr old male, 5'10", dark hair/blue eyes. I work hard and play hard, would like to enjoy spare time with partner. Box 456449 **Q**

THE GOOD LIFE Young looking male, 39, quiet guy, looking for a LTR, want to relax and enjoy life together, with the right woman. Box 858113 **Q**

FUN & OUTGOING? Young at heart 44yr old male, stocky build, 5'10", Kent-based, father, honest and down-to-earth, likes music, nights in, walking the dog. seeks genuine lady. Box 851904 **Q**

BIG ATTRACTIVE GUY Gillingham male, 43, 6'12", blue eyes, dark hair, confident, relaxed, divorced, two grown-up kids, seeks woman, loves soul music, seeks soulmate. Box 465158 **Q**

GO! A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR! Malcolm, 43, dark-haired, 5'10", spent a long time on the shelf so looking for chats, friendship and maybe more with a film and music fan. Box 451561 **Q**

LET'S BUILD A ROMANCE Hello, I'm Simon, 43, single man in Kent own a construction co, Muscular build, blue-eyed, ruggedly handsome. Looking for a honest and genuine lady. Box 453322 **Q**

GOOD LOOKING BLOKE Tall man medium build, 44, 5'10", brown hair/eyes, with an outgoing nature, looking for a female similar to myself with long hair. Box 871274 **Q**

THE REAL THING Happy-go-lucky, fun-loving male, 42, 5'10", brown eyes, medium build, likes nights out, with a can of coke, seeking similar female for companionship. Box 441762 **Q**

A SUMMER WALK Loving, caring and reliable, single male, 45, 5'10", dark hair/blue eyes. I'm seeking a relationship with loving lady 34-56. I like holidays, theatre, music etc. Ashford. Box 465408 **Q**

BROWSE and listen line: 0906 753 3093
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HELP required with service? 0871 220 9205
Live assistance, 2pm-5.30pm. Mon to Fri | Email: louise@gwave.co.uk (Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)

THE POWER OF LOVE Brighton male, 45, 5'11", dark hair/eyes, enjoy drinking, socialising, movies, nights in, cooking and clubbing, seeking a lady with similar interests for love. Box 467735 **Q**

MUSIC LOVER Richard here, I'm 45, very loving, and I like holidays, listening to music, theatre, cooking, cinema, museums and restaurants. You? Ashford. Box 467883 **Q**

LOOKING FOR LOVE? Easygoing guy with wicked SOH, 45, 5'11", slim-medium build, blue eyes and fair hair, loves animals, pubs and more, seeks loving lady for romance. E Sussex. Box 468369 **Q**

CHEEK TO CHEEK Hard working gent, 45, slim, 6ft, looking for full time relationship with a cinema, bowling and film lover! Gillingham. Box 468396 **Q**

GET TO KNOW ME Male, 46, medium build, easygoing, gosh, honest, caring, 5'8", likes walking, reading, visiting places of interest with a similar lady who is honest. Chatham. Box 851230 **Q**

EASY TO LOVE Margate male, 46, tall and slim, easy-going, enjoy cinema, socialising and sport, looking for a decent lady, 40-55, for friendship and maybe a LTR. Box 468189 **Q**

BIG DEAL IN DEAL Warm, tactile male, 45, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, seeks like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967 **Q**

WITTY ACTIVE, adventurous, articulate male, 43, own home/car, enjoys shopping, good food, country walks, music, most things. seeks homely, warm, trusting female. Box 408508 **Q**

CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU Carpenter with own house, 47, looking for a LTR, single mothers are welcome! Loves family life, cooking and beach walks. Box 449274 **Q**

MEET YOUR MATCH! Slim single dad, 47, works full time, looking for a slim/medium build lady, 25-50, children not a problem. Hobbies include, fishing, football, diy and cooking. Dover. Box 462630 **Q**

NEW BEGINNING Sincere genuine man, 47, 5'10", cropped hair, blue eyes, clean shaven, divorced, looking to meet a nice woman to get to know/take out. Eastbourne. Box 449554 **Q**

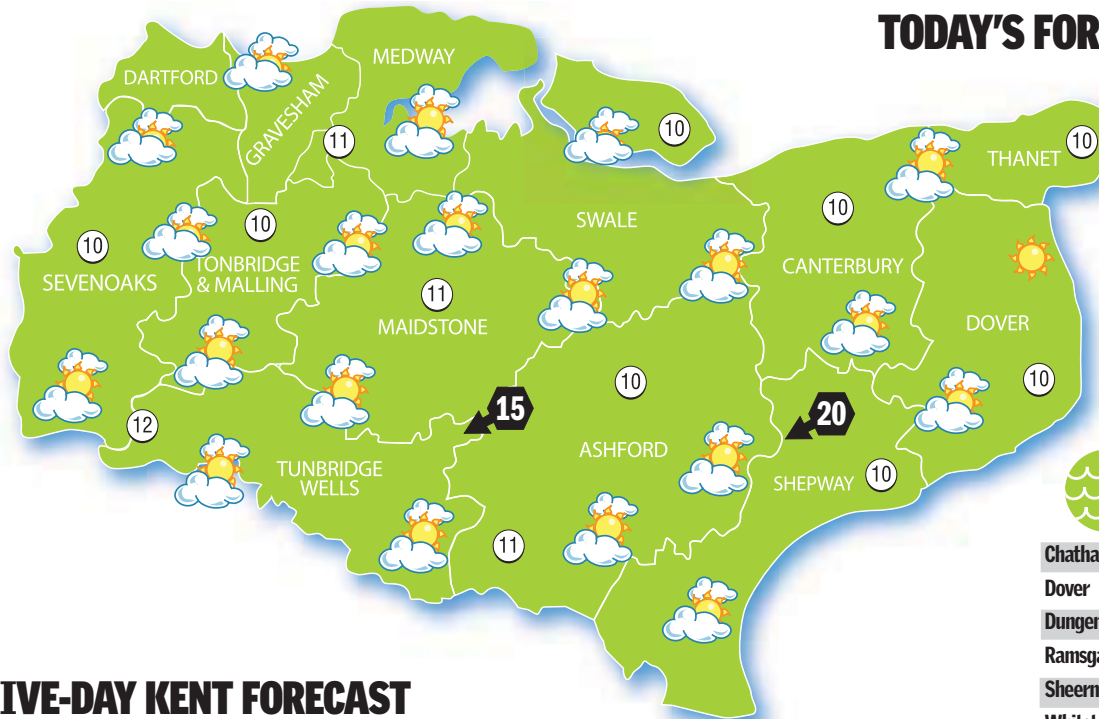
LOVE AND TRUST Honest, caring man, 50, 5'11", likes cinema, country-side, beach walks, meals outin, restaurants, looking for honest, caring, lady 45-55, Medway area. Box 852889 **Q**

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR! Youthful dad, 45, 5'10", brown hair, med build, divorcee, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, wtm female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook. Box 737529 **Q**

MOVING ON... Young 52, I'm a caring male with a GSOH. I enjoy sport, music and eating out, and I would like to meet a similar lady. Rochester. Box 467398 **Q**

DEAL OR NO DEAL? Fit and active man, 52, 5'10", slim build, smart dresser, likes cycling, walking, theatre, poetry and film, W/LTM a like-minded slim female, 35-55 with gsoh. Deal. Box 459706 **Q**

FIT LADY WANTED Canterbury area. I'm male, 54, 5'10", fit and active, attractive. I'm outgoing with a GSOH and enjoy meals out, nights in, animals,



TODAY'S FORECAST



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY



Amsterdam	13°C	Madrid	19°C
Athens	18°C	New York	22°C
Barcelona	13°C	Paris	10°C
Beijing	8°C	Rome	14°C
Bombay	35°C	Sydney	21°C
Cape Town	33°C	Tenerife	22°C
Cardiff	12°C	Tokyo	7°C
Gibraltar	18°C	Vancouver	11°C
Hong Kong	28°C	Warsaw	16°C
Las Palmas	24°C	Wellington	18°C



KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES


Chatham	Saturday	3:23pm 5.9m	Sunday	3:58pm 5.8m
Dover	Saturday	1:25pm 6.4m	Sunday	2:02pm 6.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:36pm 7.6m	Sunday	2:12pm 7.5m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:55pm 4.9m	Sunday	2:32pm 4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	3:13pm 5.7m	Sunday	3:48pm 5.6m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:11pm 5.1m	Sunday	3:46pm 5.0m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon											Whitstable					Saturday	5.11pm	5.11m	Sunday	5.46pm	5.01m		
Ashford	13°C	12°C	13°C	12°C	14°C	Dover	10°C	11°C	11°C	11°C	12°C	Gravesend	14°C	13°C	14°C	13°C	14°C	Sevenoaks	12°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	12°C		SUNRISE	6.02am	SUNSET	7.50pm
Canterbury	11°C	10°C	11°C	11°C	12°C	Faversham	11°C	10°C	10°C	11°C	12°C	Maidstone	14°C	12°C	13°C	13°C	14°C	Sittingbourne	11°C	10°C	10°C	11°C	12°C					
Chatham	11°C	10°C	10°C	11°C	12°C	Folkestone	10°C	11°C	11°C	11°C	12°C	Ramsgate	11°C	10°C	11°C	11°C	12°C	Tonbridge	14°C	12°C	14°C	13°C	14°C		MOONRISE	5.28am	MOONSET	8.22pm
Dartford	14°C	13°C	14°C	13°C	14°C	Gillingham	11°C	10°C	10°C	11°C	12°C	Rochester	11°C	10°C	10°C	11°C	12°C	Tun Wells	14°C	12°C	14°C	13°C	14°C					

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yourcompetition

WIN a DVD of comedy football movie The Shouting Men

THE Shouting Men brings the magic of the FA Cup to the small screen with the uproarious misadventures of a group of misfit Gillingham FC supporters during a cross-country "away day" weekend to watch their beloved team play in the quarter finals of the FA Cup against Newcastle United.

The Shouting Men stars Matt Daniel-Baker and Warren Llabias, Dudley Sutton and Craig Fairbrass, with cameo appearances come from John Barnes and Peter Beardsley.

The Gillingham fans are brought together by football in the way that only football can do and the movie perfectly captures the hilarious banter of footie fans. If you're fed up with football films always being about football violence this is one for you. Full of genuine laugh-out-loud moments, the film is a welcome and very funny look at the lighter side of the beautiful game – a real comedy for real football fans.



The Shouting Men (cert. 15) is out on DVD this week but you can win a copy of the DVD in our great competition.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name,

address, and daytime telephone number to The Shouting Men Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is April 30, 2010.

Question: Fans of which football team describe themselves as The Shouting Men?

No purchase necessary. For our full Terms and Conditions please visit www.kent-news.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



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More teenage angst for Page as she takes up roller derby

■ BY DAMON SMITH

YOUTH springs eternal for Ellen Page.

Oscar-nominated for her role as a pregnant 16-year-old in *Juno*, the 23-year-old Canadian actress has forged a career playing dysfunctional and pithy teenagers.

There are more growing pains in *Whip It!*, the auspicious directorial debut of Drew Barrymore based on the novel *Derby Girl* by Shauna Cross.

Set in the cut-throat world of women's roller derby, this unabashedly entertaining tale of female empowerment puts a traditional coming-of-age story on four wheels and celebrates the sisterly solidarity within a low-ranked team as its feisty members body-check their way up the league.

Novelist Cross lovingly adapts her book for the screen and she retains all of the humour and the pathos, keeping the tone relatively light to hold the interest of teenage audiences who will appreciate the heroine's struggle for independence and the hip soundtrack laden with Kaiser Chiefs, MGMT, The Breeders, Peaches and The Raveonettes.

Hormonal teenager Bliss Cavendar (Page) lives in sleepy Bodeen, Texas, where she is at the mercy of her beauty pageant-obsessed mom, Brooke (Marcia Gay Harden).

Ungainly and unfeminine, Bliss stands little chance of winning the Miss Blue Bonnet Pageant, which Brooke is convinced will be her daughter's ticket to fame and fortune.

While shopping with Brooke and sister Shania, Bliss sees a flyer for roller derby trials and she secretly attends the tryout in Austin for league underdogs, the Hurl Scouts.

Maggie Mayhem and Smashley Simpson (played by Drew Barrymore) take Bliss under their wing and with their encouragement, the plucky teen discovers her calling as her alter ego, Babe Ruthless.

The introduction of the ballsy new member



to the Hurl Scouts catalyses a dramatic change in fortunes, setting up the inevitable championship showdown with Iron Maven and her brutal posse.

Meanwhile, Bliss drifts apart from best friend Pash and embarks on a romance with musician Oliver.

Whip It! follows in the skating tracks of countless other portraits of teen angst, but Barrymore invests her first feature with energy and a tasteful, underwater sex scene.

Page imbues Bliss with spunk and vulnerability and the scenes with Harden's pushy

mother runs the gamut of laughter and tears.

There are tender scenes too between Bliss and her father Earl, who confides: "I like smart girls. That's why I married your mother... and knocked her up."

The cast appear to do many of their own stunts on the roller derby rink. Every time they get knocked down, we cheer them to get back up again.

WHIP IT! 
Certificate 12A



NEW TEAM: Matt Smith as the Doctor with Karen Gillan as assistant Amy Pond



YOUR TV REVIEW DR WHO: BBC 1, 6.35pm, Saturday

■ BY TOM BETTS

OVER Easter we got our first real taste of the latest incarnation of one of TV's most loved characters, and it was an encouraging beginning.

Matt Smith has got off to a great start as the new Doctor.

His portrayal of the character is closer in essence to Tom Baker than David Tennant, adding a little more humour, mystery and quirkiness to the mix than his predecessor.

Tennant was right to leave when he did – his tenure had run out of steam and he looked more than ready to move on.

The man's a fine actor, but lacked the oddness that makes a truly great Doctor – although I know millions would disagree.

Russell T Davies, the main mover behind the total regeneration of the character and show has also left, although he must take much of the

credit for reviving a genuine TV gem.

It was time for both to let some new ideas come through, however.

If I had seen another episode where the plot was resolved by someone pushing a button or the use of a sonic screwdriver, then I may have been lost as a fan forever.

Episode one in the new series, *The Eleventh Hour*, was the strongest I've seen in a long time, and new assistant Amy Pond (Karen Gillan) looks the perfect companion for Smith's scattier, more irreverent Time Lord.

She's a bit more strait-laced than Billie Piper's Rose Tyler, and it's good to see a lot of thought has gone into the assistant's role again.

It's often that character, and their

chemistry with the title character, that makes or breaks the series.

One backward step that seems to have been taken is with the special effects, which have certainly not been as good so far.

But this is *Doctor Who*, and while we may not be going back to the era of monsters made out of bubblewrap, the focus must be on the story.

The Daleks and Cybermen will return but the show has been at its strongest when new foes, such as the Judoon and the Slitheen, were introduced, so let's hope for more original baddies with an appetite for destruction.

The onus now is on Steven Moffat, who in recent years has written many of the best episodes, to take the character somewhere new in space and time.

It's an exciting time to be a geek.

MOTORS NEWS



Green sportster shows promise ahead of rivals

IT could be that despite the green credentials of petrol-electric hybrids, their best deployment might be the sporting sector.

The instant pulling power of the electric motors can give the performance edge needed for the adrenalin rush would-be buyers crave.

Honda is first to the market with a green sportster, the CR-Z, due in June and priced from a not unreasonable £17,000. It also promises to be an exciting drive, particularly as the first hybrid on sale in the UK with a manual gearbox.



KITT beats the 'Gene Genie' to TV favourite

TWO TV motoring icons and their TV series are back onscreen – Gene Hunt's Audi Quattro (Ashes to Ashes) and KITT (Knight Rider).

Both also appear in a Kwik-Fit poll to find the public's top 10 TV cars.

KITT was top, followed by: 2) Insp Morse's Jaguar MkII, 3) Ferrari Testarossa from Miami Vice, 4) Magnum PI's Ferrari 308, 5) Batmobile, 6) Gene Hunt's Quattro (pictured), 7) Lady Penelope's Rolls, 8) Dukes of Hazzard's General Lee, 9) The Saint's Volvo and 10) A-Team's GMC van.



Jaguar just purrs along during economic gloom

JAGUAR is making light of the sluggish UK economy – it doubled sales of its sleek XF executive car in March against March 2009.

Sales of all Jaguars are also more than one per cent up for the month, not bad when it was effectively a two-model brand – the junior X-Type model was axed in late 2009, and the all-new XJ is not on sale until May. The surge has been helped by the improved diesel power of the XF (£29,900) complementing the car's sports saloon lines.



MUCH BETTER BY DESIGN: Citroën improved their C3 supermini this year by giving it a classier look and a larger car feel plus an eye-catching Zenith panoramic front screen

Citroën C3 targeting a more discerning small car market

CITROËN launched a vastly improved C3 supermini model earlier this year.

Despite a cuddly, egg-shaped design evoking the brand's classic 2CV, I thought the previous car pretty average.

However, friendly imagery and occasionally bonkers discounting helped blind motoring Francophiles to the car's cramped cabin, sloppy driving characteristics and poor build.

But Citroën must have seen that would-be downsizers and generally more discerning consumers would not be so short-sighted this time.

So the new car (from £10,790) looks and feels much classier and able to deliver a larger car feel for those who really are trading a family hatchback or something bigger in favour of this little five-door supermini.

We tested the car via Wilmoths Citroën at Maidstone where general sales manager Kelvin Clayton was quick to defend the old car yet promote its successor:

"You've got to remember that the original C3 came out seven years ago and things have moved fast in the industry and at Citroën, but it has been a good seller for us and will continue to offer value as a used buy. The new car takes us to a new level and we expect to do well with it."

ROAD TEST CITROËN C3

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

ue to offer value as a used buy. The new car takes us to a new level and we expect to do well with it."

The test car was an upmarket 1.4 Exclusive with a lively 95bhp VTi 16v petrol engine (£14,090), with interior chroming, leather trimming and auto climate and cruise controls.

But it also had the eye-catching Zenith panoramic front screen – the new C3's trademark. This is standard on all but the VT entry model and comes with a neat pull-down interior 'roof' and sun visors.

It's a stylish luxury touch to the C3 range and defines its more upmarket stance this time.

There is little disappointment on the move either, with a better balance of ride comfort and handling than before and the 1.4 engine is well-suited to the car, though there are 1.1 and 1.6-litre petrol alternatives plus 1.4 and 1.6 diesels.

My only criticism on the test was a slightly sloppy gearshift, which may irritate keen drivers. But there is so much more to like about this smarter and swisher C3.

It should be cheap to run too, with a range of frugal low emission engines plus a miserly ultra-eco Airdream version from £14,490.



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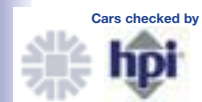
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AGILA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2009	09	Agila Club A/c	12	5	Atlanta blue	6,350	8,995
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	13D	5	Atlanta blue	Del mileage	10,495
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	13D	5	Sugar white	Del mileage	10,495

ASTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2002	02*	Astra Club	1.6	5	Blue	85,880	2,995
2005	55	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Ultra blue	30,260	6,995
2006	06	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Black sapphire	33,050	7,695
2006+	56	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Panacotta	21,950	7,995
2006	56	Astra Design Twin top	1.8	2	Black sapphire	40,200	9,695
2007	07	Astra Sxi Sports hatch X pk	1.6 TBO	3	Flame red	29,810	10,495
2007	57	Astra VXR	2.0	3	Arden blue	25,000	13,995
2007	57	Astra Sxi CDTi X Pack	1.9D	5	Ultra blue	17,325	9,995
2008	08	Astra Design CDTi Auto	1.9D	5	Star silver	22,200	10,495
2008	08	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Silver lightening	24,300	9,995
2008	58	Astra Sxi CDTi X Pack	1.9D	3	Star silver	10,100	12,995
2008	58	Astra Sxi Ex Pack	1.8	3	Black sapphire	5,960	11,995
2009	59	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Ultra blue	5,800	12,995
2009	59	Astra Life A/c	1.6	5	Metro blue	Del mileage	11,995
2009	59	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Star silver	Del mileage	12,995
2009	59	Astra Sports Twin top	1.8	2	Air blue	3,320	17,495

CORSA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2001	Y*	Corsa Comfort	1.2	3	Blue	57,525	2,695
2006	06*	Corsa Sxi +	1.2	3	Flame red	57,600	4,995
2007	07	Corsa VXR	1.6	3	Arden blue	28,450	11,495
2007	07	Corsa Design	1.4	3	Tea green	17,611	7,195
2008	57	Corsa Design Auto	1.4	3	Star silver	34,500	7,995
2008	08	Corsa Design	1.2	5	Ultra blue	25,275	8,495
2008	08	Corsa Breeze E/T	1.2	3	Flame red	10,125	7,995
2009	09	Corsa Active	1.0	5	Star silver	6,270	8,995
2009	59	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	6,325	10,995

INSIGNIA & SIGNUM

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2009	09	Insignia Tourer Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	9,300	13,995
2009	09	Insignia Sports Tourer Ex CDTi	1.9D	5	Technical grey	5,300	16,995
2004	04*	Signum Elegance Auto	2.2	5	Star silver	51,500	4,495

MERIVA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	56	Meriva Life A/C	1.4	5	Steel blue	19,730	6,495

TIGRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2007	07	Tigra Exclusive Red	1.4	2	Metro blue	32,500	8,995

ZAFIRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	06	Zafira Active	1.8	5	Metro blue	38,050	7,995
2008	08	Zafira Breeze+ CDTi Auto	1.9D	5	Star silver	16,200	12,495

VECTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	56	Vectra Life CDTi A/c	1.9D	5	Black	27,780	6,995
2008	08	Vectra Design	1.8	4	Panacotta	25,050	8,995
2008	08	Vectra Exclusiv CDTi + pack	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	41,700	8,995
2008	58	Vectra Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	15,390	8,995

DUE SOON

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2002	02*	Corsa Club E/T	1.2	5	Blue	37,000	3,195
2006	56	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Flame red	37,000	7,995
2007	07	Corsa Design	1.2	3	Metro blue	19,500	7,495
2007	07	Astra Design Auto Estate	1.8	5	Silver lightening	20,000	7,995
2008	58	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Black sapphire	11,000	9,495
2009	09	Astra Sxi CDTi X Pack	1.9D	5	Star silver	10,000	14,995
2009	09	Agila Design	1.2	5	White	7,000	7,995
2009	59	Insignia Elite CDTi Nav	2.0	5	Sovereign silver	8,000	22,995
2009	59	Insignia Sxi Nav	2.0	4	Black sapphire	8,000	17,995
2009	59	Insignia CDTi ECO Exclusive	2.0	5	Silver lake	5,000	17,495
2005	05*	Zafira Design CDTi Auto	2.0	5	Star silver	53,000	6,995
2007	07	Zafira Energy	1.6	5	Silver lightening	19,000	8,495
2009	59	Zafira Design CDTi	1.9	5	Panacotta	5,000	17,495
2009	58	Vectra Exclusive CDTi	1.9D	5	Silver	19,000	9,995

USED VANS

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	56	Combo PAS	1.3CDTi	5	White	36,150	£4,995+VAT
2009	59	Combo CDTi PAS	1.3D	5	White	13,960	£7,295+VAT

PRE-REG VANS

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2009	59	Vivaro SWB (115)	2.0D	5	White	Delivory	£11,995+VAT
2009	59	Astravan	1.7D	5	White	Delivory	£9,495+VAT

OTHERS

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2004	04*	Peugeot 206 S	1.1	5	Blue	46,225	3,995
2006	56*	Proton Savi	1.1	5	Metallic red	28,000	3,995

OTHERS DUE SOON

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2004	54*	Ford Focus Lx	1.6	5	Star silver	48,000	5,495
2004*	04*	Ford CMAX Zetec	1.8	5	Silver	64,000	4,995

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06 56 FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 1242CC 5DR AUTO PAS BLACK 16000 MILES.....	£5995
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06 56 MONDEO 2-0 GHIA AUTO PAS SDR SILVER METALLIC 23000 MILES.....	£8995
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08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/CL SDR ICE BLUE 300 MILES.....	£8995
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ASTRA HATCHES

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PROPERTY NEWS

Preventing terrible loss getting worse

Steve Osborne, The Mortgage Man, shares his knowledge with you in this fortnightly column



AS THE size of the average mortgage increases, so too does the need to protect your partner and your family against being left with a huge debt should the worst happen.

The death of the main breadwinner is bad enough without the added problem of where to find a four-figure mortgage payment each month. There are a number of ways in which you can protect yourself and your home, and I am being asked for advice from more and more clients who want to make sure they won't have to worry about losing their home as well as a loved one.

Term assurance is probably the simplest type of protection and often the cheapest. It simply pays out if the insured person dies and can either be on a level or a decreasing basis depending on the reason for the cover.

Critical illness cover is similar but has the added benefit of paying out if the policy holder contracts one of a specified list of critical illnesses. These vary between companies, so make sure you compare not just the cost but the cover provided.

Family income benefit is a term assurance policy, with or without critical illness cover, that differs by paying out a monthly income for a set period rather than a lump sum.

This is often cheaper than a lump sum policy and it does away with the worry of having to invest a large sum of money at a time when the surviving family has more important concerns.

Permanent health insurance pays out a monthly income if you are unable to work due to accident or sickness. This is a long-term plan designed to continue to your retirement date or until you return to work and should not be confused with the short term accident, sickness and unemployment plans that have had so much bad press.

Make sure you get good independent advice and remember that if a life assurance policy is set up incorrectly you could end up with a big inheritance tax bill rather than the money going where you intended it to.

Steve Osborne, director, The Mortgage Company, Ashford



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Ombudsman's demand for lettings protection

Landlords and tenants would benefit from closure of legislative loopholes, says report

■ BY NICK AMES

THE Property Ombudsman is demanding that whichever party wins General Election urgently legislates to improve protection for both landlords and tenants who employ letting agents.

The call has been echoed by many across the property field who say action needs to be taken as soon as possible.

In his annual report, Ombudsman Christopher Hamer urges swift action because of the increasing activity in the lettings market during the downturn.

According to his report, the fact that letting agents were not covered by the provisions of the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act is an "alarming inconsistency".

Mr Hamer also recommends that landlords and tenants only use agents who are members of a recognised trade association or any agent who is a member of the Property Ombudsman

scheme. LetAssured UK is one company active in this area.

"LetAssured UK has been specifically set up by landlords to protect themselves and other like-minded landlords from the unscrupulous activities of some letting agents," said managing director David Plaister.

"Landlords from across the UK have been joining with us in a move away from the traditional agents who have been rubbing their hands and watching the fees roll in."

The proportion of the Ombudsman's workload related to lettings disputes rose from 28 per cent to 49 per cent of his workload last year. LetAssured UK said it guarantees landlords and tenants peace of mind in knowing that they are dealing with a firm which meets defined standards of customer service and has the necessary insurance to protect their clients' money, plus a customer complaints procedure offering independent redress.

"LetAssured underpins the entire administrative procedure of renting property on behalf of the landlord, and he is safe in the knowledge there will be no hidden costs," said Mr Plaister.



FLOOD OF COMPLAINTS: Whoever wins the election will need to address inconsistencies in lettings legislation

Springing into action can increase chance of a sale

CONNELLS offices in Kent are enjoying one of their busiest periods since the start of the year and say the upward trend looks set to continue.

Staff say more properties are coming on the market and business is looking good.

"Our branches have had a busy few weeks with more properties coming on the market as people are encouraged by lower interest rates and the start of spring.

"Demand is continuing to outstrip supply and because of the lack of stock there are more people chasing the same property, which is driving prices up in some areas," said Connells regional managing director, Kevin Peel.

"Houses continue to sell as long as vendors are realistic in their expectations and their estate agent is prepared to work hard on

their behalf, using every opportunity to bring a property to the attention of as many buyers as possible."

Mr Peel said buyers could help by following a few simple tips: "First impressions count, so make sure your property has 'kerb appeal'. Paint the front door, tidy the garden and put up hanging baskets," he said.

"Make sure the home is clean, tidy and de-cluttered. Buyers are trying to picture themselves in your home, so get rid of junk and minimise personal possessions such as photos. Throw out anything that has been broken for a year or more. If you haven't mended it by now, chances are you never will."

Spring flowers in bloom make gardens particularly attractive, and spring cleaning adds to homes looking good, both inside and out, he added.

Association upset by new legislation

LANDLORDS' "worst fears" have been realised with new legislation covering houses in multiple occupation, it has been claimed by one of the bodies representing them.

The laws will see landlords required to gain planning permission if they purchase a property designed to be rented to three or more unrelated people. Alan Ward, chairman of the Residential Landlords' Association, criticised the legislation on two grounds.

"First, it is totally impractical," he said. "And second, it is social engineering, because planning law has never been about who can live where – it's about the use of the building."

Mr Ward said landlords were unlikely to wait for any administrative delays in planning permission being granted.

His comments come after PropertyEarth.net research indicated three-bedroom houses made up 57 per cent of all property searches by investors. Two-bedroom homes accounted for 21 per cent, and four-bedrooms 15 per cent.

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF MOVING, TAKE A LOOK AT HOMES AND DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS THE COUNTY @ yourkenttv.co.uk

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- Conservatory
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- Well Presented Throughout
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Maidstone**£165,000**

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- Corner Plot
- Rear Patio and Garden To The Side

Sandling**£230,000**

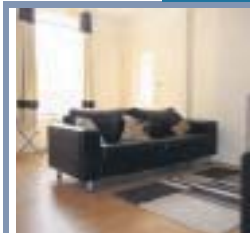
- 3 Bed Detached Property
- En suite to Master Bedroom
- 15'7 Lounge
- Pretty Rear Garden

Maidstone**£169,995**

- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Parking

Tovil**OIEO £149,995**

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- Potentially Stamp Duty Exempt
- Carport Parking & Visitor Spaces
- Cloakroom

Maidstone**£120,000**

- Grade II Listed Apartment
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Allington**£174,995**

- Two Double Bedrooms
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- 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- EN-SUITE AND DRESSING ROOM

- DETACHED GARAGE
- SUITABLE FOR OFFICE/HOME WORKING
- SPACIOUS THROUGHOUT
- CLOSE TO AMENITIES

£350,000

REF: Prestige_580485



Wigmor

- 3 BEDROOM DETACHED
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- INDIVIDUAL DESIGN
- LOUNGE-DINER / STUDY

- DOUBLE BEDROOM
- GOOD SIZE GARDEN
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

£325,000

REF: Prestige_580470



Walderslade

- DETACHED HOUSE
- 4 BEDROOMS
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- QUIET SHARED DEVELOPMENT

- EN-SUITE
- POPULAR LOCATION
- DRIVE GARAGE
- INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

£365,000

REF: Prestige_580416



Higham

- 6 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION

- BROWER ROOM
- 2 EN-SUITES
- 1 BEDROOM DETACHED ANNEX
- COUNTRY SIDE VIEWS

£650,000

REF: Prestige_580033



Walderslade

- 8 BED DETACHED HOUSE
- 2 BEDROOM DETACHED ANNEX
- 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- EN-SUITE TO MASTER

- SUN TERRACE
- UTILITY ROOM
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM

£610,995

REF: Prestige_580440



Isle of Harty

- 4 BEDROOM DETACHED
- APPROX 2.8 ACRES
- PRODUCKS
- 2 RECEPTIONS

- RIVER VIEWS
- STABLE BLOCK
- STONE BARN
- CELLAR

OIED £550,000

REF: Prestige_580056



Walderslade

- EXECUTIVE DETACHED HOUSE
- 4 BEDROOMS
- VILLAGE LOCATION
- EN-SUITE

- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- STUDY
- DOUBLE GARAGE

£525,000

REF: Prestige_580575



East Farleigh

- 3 DOUBLE BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- POTENTIAL FOR ANNEXE
- DOUBLE GARAGE & DFT ROAD PARKING

- CONSERVATORY
- FRONT, SIDE & REAR GARDENS
- VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION
- VILLAGE LOCATION

£510,000

REF: Prestige_580585



Strood

- 4 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM
- EN-SUITE TO MASTER BEDROOM

- FAMILY BATHROOM
- CONVERTED CELLAR
- WELL PRESENTED
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDENS

£325,000

REF: Prestige_580585



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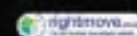
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Maidstone £175,000

Two bedroom terrace house. Lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, utility room & cellar. C/heating. Garden & off road parking.

Maidstone Office

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Maidstone, OIEO £175,000

Three bedroom family home. Lounge, kitchen, dining room, bathroom. Garden.

Maidstone Office

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Barming OIEO £200,000

Two bedroom semi detached bungalow. Lounge/dining room, d/glazing & oil fired c/heating. Kitchen & bathroom.

Maidstone Office

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Yalding OIEO £250,000

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£259,950

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Maidstone

- Semi detached house with
- fitted kitchen, dining room & study to
- lounge, bedroom & bathroom

£235,000

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Maidstone

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Maidstone

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- Conservatory & garage en bloc
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Maidstone

- end of terrace, three bedrooms
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OIEO £114,000

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£115,000

Purpose built apartment. Double bedroom with en suite dressing room, bathroom, living room & fitted kitchen.

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OIEO £135,000

Two bed first floor apartment. En-suite shower to master, fitted kitchen, bathroom. Allocated parking.

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£149,995

Three bed house. Lounge/diner, kitchen & bathroom. Garden & garage.

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OIEO £155,000

Two bed house. Lounge/diner, refitted kitchen & bathroom. Low maintenance rear garden.

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Family home, three bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, sitting room, dining room & kitchen. D/glazing & c/heating.

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£222,500

Three bed detached house. Lounge with dining area, kitchen, c/heating, d/glazed windows. Garage with parking & garden.

Maidstone



£250,000

Three bed house. 2 reception rooms in lounge, dining room, kitchen & bathroom.

West Malling



OIEO £399,995

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Kings Hill



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Maidstone



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Closing Date : 16 April 2010

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MidKent College

MidKent College is a large and successful College operating on two main campuses serving Medway and Maidstone. Our new, state of the art £86 million Medway Campus is located next to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College trains soldiers under a very large construction and engineering contract. The College was graded 'good' overall with 'outstanding' Capacity to Improve at its Ofsted inspection in March 2009.

Following the retirement of two of our longest-serving managers, we are seeking to recruit dynamic, progressive and enthusiastic individuals to join our committed leadership team at the Medway Campus.

Head of Faculty Advanced Engineering

Salary: c£46k

Manufacturing and Engineering have benefited from a substantial investment in new equipment and we are now looking to expand training opportunities within this area. In addition to providing effective management of the faculty, the successful candidate will be expected to lead on the development of STEM initiatives including a new Motor Engineering section.

Head of Faculty Higher and Academic Studies

Salary: c£46k

Comprising the A Level, Access and Higher Education curriculum areas, this Faculty is based at both our new Medway Campus and at the nearby University of Kent which accommodates most of the Access and HE provision. The successful candidate will have a strong track record of leading within these curriculum areas and in improving outcomes for students.

Closing date: Thursday 29 April 2010

Interview date: Friday 6 May 2010

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The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

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Ref: P0164

**Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 pro rata
(dependant on qualifications and experience)**

18.5 Hours per week

Medway

We are looking to recruit a dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Child Care

Ref: P0323

**Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 per annum
(dependant on qualifications and experience)**

Medway

We are looking for a knowledgeable and experienced candidate to deliver CACHE Child Care programmes at various levels. The successful candidate will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Sociology

Ref: P0322

**Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 per annum
(dependant on qualifications and experience)**

Medway/Maidstone

The College is looking for an excellent candidate to participate in the delivery of A' level, YUP and Access to HE courses. The ideal candidate will have experience of teaching / training in an FE environment and will have up to date and sound working knowledge of level 3 study. The successful candidate will have obtained a degree in Sociology and hold, or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Closing date: Wednesday 21st April 2010

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Ref: P0691

**Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum
(dependant on qualifications and experience)**

Medway

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Lecturer in Construction

Ref: P0198

**Salary: 28,463 - £32,251 per annum
(dependant on qualifications and experience)**

Medway

The primary role of the post holder will be to teach on and participate in the development of construction related programmes across the Faculty. The appointee will contribute to the delivery of Entry/First/National/Higher National, Professional courses and short courses for industry as appropriate. The ability to teach in one of the main Construction /Civil Engineering disciplines would be advantageous. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Technician in Hair and Beauty

Ref: P0277

Salary: £14,588 - £17,000 per annum

Medway

We are looking for an organised candidate to assist the smooth running of the Hair and Beauty department. Responsibilities will include providing technical support to staff and students and setting-up the classrooms as required. Experience in the industry would be advantageous.

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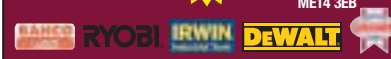
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CRICKET



Picture: ADY KERRY

CENTURION: Rob Key hit form in pre-season

Kent eager to get off to a good start

KENT make a return to the LV County Championship Division One tomorrow as they begin away to Nottinghamshire.

Rob Key's side made an immediate return to the top flight after winning the Division Two title last summer and will be eager to get off to a good start at Trent Bridge.

Kent's main concern ahead of the season-opener is over their bowling attack. Amjad Khan and Robbie Joseph were both left out of the side's warm-up game against Loughborough UCCE, which finished on Monday, to give the pair every chance of being fit in time for tomorrow. Dewald Nel is also believed to have pulled out with a back injury.

Several players did make the most of some valuable playing time. Rob Key (140), Geraint Jones (112) and Martin van Jaarsveld (106) all gained valuable time out in the middle as Kent declared on 504 for 7 in their first innings at Canterbury, while Joe Denly also hit a century in the second innings.

With doubts over Khan and Joseph, head coach Paul Farbrace will have been pleased to see Phil Edwards and Warren Lee bowl tidily. They took two wickets each as Loughborough were bowled out for 259, but Simon Cook was the stand-out performer, taking 3 for 24.

The dependable 33-year-old seamer extended his contract last week until the end of the 2011 season.

Farbrace said: "Securing the services of an experienced player like Simon is great news for the club. He is a quality bowler and is fast becoming Kent's most reliable. We're all very pleased he has extended his stay."

The squad's bowling unit has been further bolstered with the signing of teenage seamer Ashley Shaw. The 18-year-old signed a two-year deal after impressing in a trial at St Lawrence last week.



NEW DAWN: Relegated Aylesford Bulls (in red) are looking to strengthen their pack before the start of next season in London 2 South East after struggling to compete

Ignominious defeat is fitting end to Bulls' season from hell

AYLESFORD Bulls are preparing for next season after their night-mare campaign in London 1 South came to an end with a heavy 73-0 defeat at Sidcup.

The Bulls, who were promoted by default last season due to a reshuffle in the leagues following the demise of Halifax, have struggled in the division. They finished the campaign bottom and recorded just one victory all season - against rivals Maidstone.

With relegation confirmed last month, the defeat at the hands of promotion-chasing Sidcup concluded a season the club are glad to see the back of and they already looking to next year.

RUGBY

BY TOM HOWARD

Vice-chairman Neil Wiltshire said: "It has been just one thing after another this season. I'm glad it's over."

Strengthen

"I don't think we were quite prepared for the step up and we lost five or six players during pre-season, which didn't help. Injuries have also not helped. I don't think we have been able to play the same XV for two games in a row."

After several years playing in London 2

South East, the Bulls should be more than able to cope with the standard of rugby next season.

With relegation being confirmed so early, Wiltshire admitted the club have identified where they need to strengthen for next season.

He said: "Our back-line has been a pretty good standard and capable of playing well in the division. We need to strengthen elsewhere though. I think we probably need to bring in four or five players in the pack. Hopefully we can have far more luck with the amount of injuries we pick up next season."

The Bulls will face neighbours Maidstone next season following their relegation from London 1 South. Maidstone completed their final game of the season on Saturday, with a 34-10 defeat against Old Elthamians.

Picture: MARTYN WATSON



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Stones reap no reward despite renewed effort

FOOTBALL

BY YOURMAIDSTONE REPORTER

AFC Hornchurch 1

Wall 70

Maidstone United 0

MAIDSTONE United's winless run was extended to ten games following a narrow defeat at AFC Hornchurch on Saturday which leaves them entrenched in the Ryman Premier's bottom four.

After an embarrassing 5-0 defeat against Hastings United on Bank Holiday Monday, Stones boss Peter Nott asked his players for a battling response. He received the performance he was after, but it wasn't good enough to avoid another defeat which left United second bottom in the division and three points from safety.

AFC Hornchurch enjoyed the best of the opening exchanges and could have opened the scoring early on through Tambeson Eyong and Mervin Abraham. The pair fired wide of Andy Walker's goal when well placed.

Maidstone then forced a save from Hornchurch goalkeeper Darren Behcet, when Danny Hockton's 20-yard free-kick was par-



Picture: STEVE TERRELL

Maidstone United starting XI



Subs used: Fisher (Paul 79), C Stone (Gonnella 89)

cross into the area, but the striker's header was well-saved by Behcet.

The second-half was a scrappy affair, although the visitors did have a good chance when another Hockton free-kick drew a save from Behcet.

With 20 minutes of the game remaining, Hornchurch scored what turned out to be the winning goal. A long goal-kick from Behcet bounced over Edge and Ross Wall had the simple task of slotting past Walker.

Maidstone pushed forward in search of an equaliser, but the closest they came to a goal was when Peacock's header from a Gonnella corner went wide on 83 minutes.

Stones boss Nott was pleased with the commitment shown from his players, but was left stunned by how the game got away from his side.

He said: "It was a much better performance compared to the one against Hastings. The fight was back and the commitment was there, but it is still a mystery how we didn't come away from the game with at least a point."

WINLESS STREAK: Danny Hockton came close to finding the net on another disappointing day for the Stones

ried behind for a corner. From the resultant corner Adrian Stone's header was held by Behcet.

On the half-hour Maidstone were lucky not to fall behind when Jermaine Darlington conceded possession deep in the Hornchurch half. Eyong picked up the ball and managed to beat Ant Bodle, Roland Edge and James Peacock, but his shot flew narrowly wide of the post.

On the stroke of half-time Maidstone had a great chance to take the lead through Hockton. Darlington whipped in a dangerous

FOOTBALL



Picture: COLIN REED

ENCOURAGE: Stone's Peter Nott has to lift his squad

Battle to avoid the drop is Nott a task for faint-hearted

INSTILLING belief into his beleaguered squad is going to be Peter Nott's toughest task in his bid to steer Maidstone United out of the relegation zone.

Maidstone dropped to second bottom in the Ryman Premier League following Saturday's 1-0 defeat at AFC Hornchurch and remain three points adrift of safety.

The Stones have gone ten games without a win and are desperate for points to lift them out of the drop zone.

Nott, who isn't used to being involved in relegation scraps in his managerial career, admitted his players were devastated on Saturday and are lacking in confidence.

He said: "After all my ranting at them after the Hastings game, I told them to keep their chins up. They deserved to get something from the game. The biggest task I have now is to instill belief in the players, they are down due to the run we are on."

"The belief has gone a bit. When you go a goal behind the players become jittery."

"We saw it on Saturday and even when Danny (Hockton) had his chance he seemed to hesitate, when before he would have normally buried it."

The former Maidstone reserves manager is convinced his squad are good enough to stay in the division and said he would take any kind of win to lift the confidence of his players.

He said: "I've told them they don't become bad players overnight and they are more than capable of getting us out of the relegation zone. I really do believe that if we can get a win it would solve the problem."

"I would take any win at the moment. It's the same with a lot of clubs in the situation we are in."

Maidstone were involved in a crucial six-pointer against bottom side Waltham Abbey on Tuesday. Log on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk for a full report.

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
C Dartford	36	25	4	7	+48	79
2 Kingstonian	40	20	6	14	+4	66
3 Sutton United	38	19	8	11	+17	65
4 Boreham Wood	39	18	7	14	+7	61
5 Hastings United	39	17	8	14	+11	59
6 Tonbridge Angels	37	17	7	13	+6	58
7 Aveley	36	17	6	13	+15	57
8 AFC Hornchurch	38	15	11	12	+2	56
9 Wealdstone	36	14	13	9	0	55
10 Horsham	38	15	7	16	+1	52
11 Tooting & Mitcham	40	14	10	16	-4	52
12 Canvey Island	39	13	10	16	-3	49
13 Cray Wanderers	38	14	7	17	-13	49
14 Billericay Town	38	12	12	14	+2	48
15 Harrow Borough	37	12	12	13	+1	48
16 Hendon	36	14	6	16	-1	48
17 Carshalton Athletic	38	10	13	15	-9	43
18 Ashford Town (Mx)	38	11	10	17	-11	43
19 Margate	40	10	12	18	-22	42
20 Bognor Regis Town	37	9	14	14	-11	41
21 Maidstone United	37	10	9	18	-20	39
22 Waltham Abbey	37	10	8	19	-20	38

FIXTURES (Thursday): Ryman League Premier Division:

Maidstone United v Bognor Regis Town; **(Saturday):** Ryman

League Premier Division: **Maidstone United** v Ashford Town

(Middx)



Picture: NICK COULMAN

TOP TEN: Tom Weeden wants to threaten the front-runners at Thruxton this weekend after a good display at Brands Hatch

Weeden eyes top-ten finish

SUPERBIKES

ASPIRING superbike rider Tom Weeden heads to Hampshire's Thruxton circuit this weekend hoping to build on a solid result earned at Brands Hatch earlier this month.

The British 125 Championship rider finished 12th in the opening round of the season at his home circuit and is eager to break into the top ten this weekend.

The 15-year-old Maidstone Grammar School racer was held up by two accidents in the race at Brands Hatch, but was relatively pleased to come through unscathed and cross the finish line in 12th.

However, this weekend he intends to threaten the front runners.

Weeden said: "I've come away from Brands Hatch feeling that I've salvaged something from nothing. I just can't wait for Thruxton, where I'm aiming for a top ten finish."

Former British Superbike rider Scott

Smart now races in the British Superstock Championship and finished 12th at Brands Hatch in the opening round of the series.

Elsewhere, road racer Steve Mercer will travel to Scarborough to take part in the famous Oliver's Mount race meeting this Sunday. The Ian Watson Spring Cup races will be the 28-year-old's second visit to the notorious road course and he believes a win is a strong possibility.

Mercer said: "We used the Brands Hatch superbike meeting two weeks ago as a test and it went really well. I'm hoping we can go to Oliver's Mount and win this year. Road racing is what I'm focusing on this year, but I may do some more British Superbike races later in the year."

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Mark Stimson gives his thoughts on Gills' crucial clash against Brighton last night

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